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In Plain English

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Find And Manage Duplicate Photos

Finding Duplicate Files Is As Easy As 1, 2, 3!

You may be surprised the first time you run a duplicate photo scan on your computer. The average computer may have hundreds, even thousands, of duplicate images. There are many reasons this occurs.

For example, each time you transfer new photos over from your digital camera to your computer, duplicate photos from a previous transfer session may already be saved on that same computer in a different folder.

Duplicate photos on your computer wastes space, creates a longer backup process, and becomes time consuming when you go to look for a particular file. Easy Duplicate Finder will perform a thorough scan enabling you to find and manage duplicate photos. Periodic usage of Easy Duplicate Finder will keep your computer organized and if you currently pay for a backup service, may even save you money! Plus – Easy Duplicate Finder locates many other types of duplicate files, as shown in the list to the right.

Features include:

- Duplicate Photo Finder
- Duplicate Song Finder
- Duplicate Outlook Email Finder
- Duplicate Documents Finder
- Automated Scanning Wizard
- Comprehensive Reports
- Easy to Use Interface
- Duplicate Selection Manager

Easy Duplicate Finder works with:

Windows xp Windows Vista

easyDuplicateFinder™

www.easyduplicatefinder.com/smartcomputing

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We take a look at printers that offer high-quality prints at blazing speeds, as well as important extras such as Wi-Fi connectivity.

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Available on the App Store

Technology News

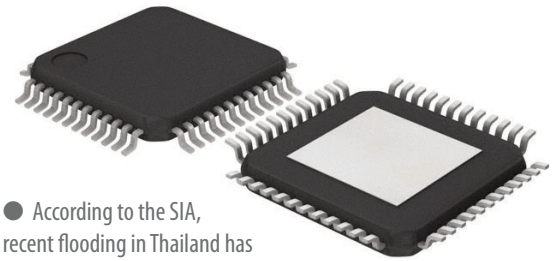
RECORD ACTIVATIONS & APP DOWNLOADS ON CHRISTMAS DAY

According to the Flurry, the mobile-focused analytics and advertising firm, more new Android and iOS-based smartphones and tablets were activated on Christmas day than ever before. The firm reports that the average number of device activations that occurred between Dec. 1 and Dec. 20 was 1.5 million. On Dec. 25, however, device activations increased 353%, to 6.8 million. Developers also made out like bandits this holiday; an average of 108 million apps were downloaded during the first 20 days of December. On Christmas day, that number jumped 125%, to 242 million.

TABLETS ARE POPULAR WITH SMBS

The NPD Group's third quarter SMB Technology Monitor has determined that 73% of small and medium-sized businesses in the United States (with fewer than 1,000 employees) plan to purchase tablets sometime in the next 12 months, a 5% increase compared to the previous quarter's survey. The NPD Group also determined that 90% of those surveyed plan to spend the same amount or more on tablets over the same timeframe. According to the survey, SMBs are expected to spend more than $21,000 on tablets on average in the next 12 months. During this period, 54% of small businesses (with fewer than 50 employees) plan to invest in new tablet purchases, with 89% planning to increase or maintain their spending on tablets.

Tablets, such as the ASUS Eee Pad Transformer Prime TF201 ($599; www.asus.com), are taking off for businesses.



According to the SIA, recent flooding in Thailand has had an impact on semiconductor sales.

THAILAND FLOODING: SLIPPING SEMICONDUCTOR SALES

According to the Semiconductor Industry Association, semiconductors raked in $25.1 billion globally in November 2011, which is down 2.4% compared to October. The SIA attributes the drop to the flooding in Thailand and the lingering European financial crisis, which has had impact on other economies and global demand. The SIA expects to see those numbers jump in subsequent months, as the supply chain catches up and as the European financial crisis gets resolved.

WI-FI PROTECTED SETUP FLAW

A security researcher recently revealed a flaw in Wi-Fi Protected Setup, a feature of many routers that lets you automatically create a WPA/WPA2-encrypted home network and easily add devices without inputting long passphrases. By exploiting the flaw, an attacker can use brute-force methods to suss out the pre-shared key in a relatively short amount of time. Although no solution to the flaw was available as we went to press, the US-CERT (United States Computer Emergency Readiness Team) recommends that users only employ WPA2 encryption with a strong password, disable UPnP (Universal Plug and Play), and enable MAC (Media Access Control) address filtering for trusted computers and devices.

The Amazon Kindle Fire ($199; www.amazon.com) blurs the line between e-readers and tablets.

EBOOK READER DISPLAY MARKET TO DOUBLE IN 2011

According to IHS, 27.1 million monochrome and color ebook reader displays shipped in 2011, which is a 108% increase compared to 2010. Despite the impressive growth, IHS expects that for 2012, 37.1 million units will ship, which is a less dramatic 37% increase compared to 2011 shipments. By 2015, ebook display shipments will begin a slow decline, which IHS expects will prompt ebook makers to combat with color screens and new markets.

The popular video and audio connector on your HDTV is making its way into your other devices.

HDMI-ENABLED PRODUCT SHIPMENTS TO SURPASS 1 BILLION IN 2014

HDMI (High-Definition Multimedia Interface) is the ubiquitous encryption-capable video transmission standard used in HDTVs and set-top boxes. The researchers at In-Stat expect significant growth for HDMI-enabled devices in the future, particularly in consumer desktop and notebook PCs and mobile phones. According to the firm, 1 billion HDMI-enabled devices will ship in 2014. In-Stat also predicts that shipments of devices with HDMI will rise by 17% every year through 2015, and that 65% of the digital camcorders for sale in 2015 will have HDMI.

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www.supermicro.com

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Business News

wework®

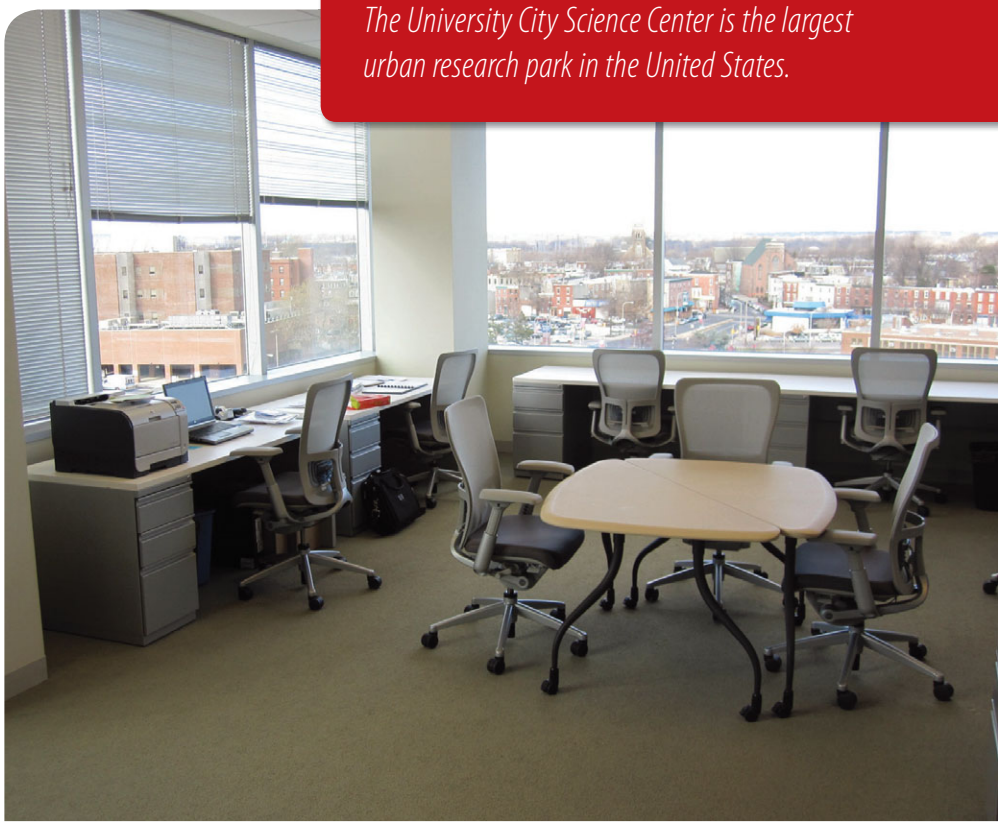
NEW WEWORK LOCATIONS

WeWork is a co-working company that offers you a fully enclosed private office with glass walls and doors, as well as an attended lobby. The company recently announced that it will be adding a Los Angeles location in January and a West Soho location in New York City sometime in February. The month-to-month office spaces give you the choice of a virtual office ($99 a month) to provide an address for mail and package delivery (and access to a conference room); a single desk ($425-$450 a month) with a file cabinet and enclosed lockable room; or a private office for one to six people (starting at $650 a month).

THE BULLPEN

Philadelphia-based entrepreneurs should check out The Bullpen at the University City Science Center's Port Business Incubator. The co-working space provides you with a desk, phone, and broadband Wi-Fi access, as well as access to the services and programs offered to the residents of the Port Business Incubator, such as grant-writing support and public relations assistance. The University City Science Center is the largest urban research park in the United States. Cost for a desk is $450 a month.

The University City Science Center is the largest urban research park in the United States.



Marriott REWARDS.
every step along the way

EARN A FREE NIGHT

MARRIOT MEGABONUS

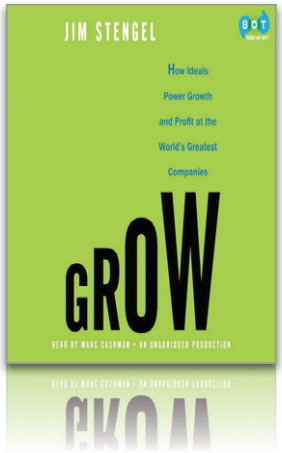
Marriot announced its new Rewards MegaBonus 2012 incentive, in which guests who make two paid stays can earn a free night. You'll just need to register with Marriot by March 31 and stay at any of the 3,500 Marriot hotels between Feb. 1 and April 30. You'll earn one free night (at any of the category 1-4 hotels) after every second paid stay and can enjoy up to two free nights.

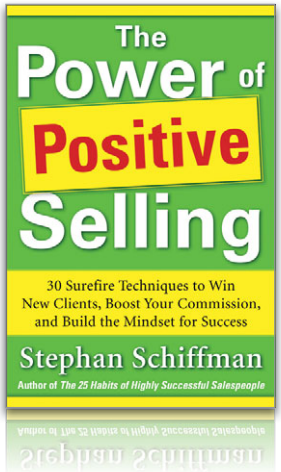
BUSINESS FOCUSES IN 2012

The efficient use of space and resources will be a key emphasis for business in 2012, according to PeopleCube, which makes software that helps companies manage their real estate and energy use. For example, PeopleCube believes that management teams will maximize efficiency by using automated control systems to track whether employees are in a particular space and adjust the temperature accordingly. Another key investment, according to PeopleCube, will be videoconference and telepresence technology to reduce travel expenses and improve the efficiency of mobile workers.

"GROW"

"Grow" is a book from Jim Stengel that examines 50 of the world's top businesses and the relationship between a company's financial performance and its connection with consumers. The book utilizes data from the Millward Brown Optimor database that incorporates neuroscience-based research methods and takes into account customer engagement, loyalty, and advocacy. Stengel looks at the top 50 brands that have created meaningful relationships with customers and finds that, on the whole, they grew three times faster over the course of 2001 to 2011. You can find out what kind of bonds generate growth and how your business can leverage that information.





"THE POWER OF POSITIVE SELLING"

Stephan Schiffman's "The Power Of Positive Selling" is designed to help you feel confident in any sales situation. The book offers 30 tactics to avoid pessimism, along with instructions, tips, anecdotes, and inspirational stories. Lessons include how to believe in what you are selling, do research, set the tone of a conversation, ask the right questions, and help your clients solve problems. Schiffman is a corporate sales trainer who has trained more than 500,000 salespeople, and he's also the author of other best-selling books, such as "Cold Calling Techniques (That Really Work!)."

Small business events give you a chance to learn critical management skills and network with professionals in related fields. Don't miss these upcoming opportunities. If you would like to see your event here, email editor@smartcomputing.com with the subject Small Business Event.

GROWCO 2012
New Orleans, La. | March 5-7
growco.inc.com

Seventh Annual Small Business Summit 2012
New York, N.Y. | March 6
smallbiztechsummit.com

SES New York
New York, N.Y. | March 19-23
sesconference.com/newyork

Social Tech '12
Seattle, Wash. | March 29-30
www.marketingprofs.com

InfusionCon 2012
Phoenix, Ariz. | April 2-4
2012.infusioncon.com

Small Business Expo
New York, N.Y. | May 10
www.thesmallbusinessexpo.com

America's Small Business Summit
Washington, D.C. | May 21-23
www.uschambersummit.com

National Small Business Week
Washington, D.C. | May 20-26
www.nationalsmallbusinessweek.com

140 Characters Conference
New York City, N.Y. | June 19-20
nyc.140conf.com

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- Allows others to safely accept your checks
- Avoid credit card finance charges!

*Visit www.**versacheck.com/sc2** for details or call 303-532-4738

Small Business **Resources**

The Web has a trove of resources for SOHOs (small and home offices) and small businesses—if you know where to look. Find an association that can help you meet your goals; get information from the government about loans, grants, and taxes; and stay up-to-date with the best small business newsletters and blogs. If you have a pressing question, pose it on a forum to see what your peers have to say.

Associations & Support

Better Business Bureau
www.bbb.org
(703) 276-0100
4200 Wilson Blvd.
STE 800
Arlington, VA 22203-1838

Main Street Alliance (MSA)
mainstreetalliance.org
info@mainstreetalliance.org
(603) 831-1835
3518 S. Edmunds St.
Seattle, WA 98118

National Federation of Independent Businesses (NFIB)
www.nfib.com
(800) 634-2669
(615) 872-5800
53 Century Blvd.
STE 250
Nashville, TN 37214

National Small Business Association (NSBA)
nsba.biz
(202) 293-8830
1156 15th St., STE 1100
Washington, DC 20005

SCORE
www.score.org
(800) 634-0245
(703) 487-3612
1175 Herndon Pkwy
STE 900
Herndon, VA 20170

Small Business Development Centers Network (SBDCNET)
www.sbdcnet.org
(800) 689-1912
501 W. Durango Blvd.
San Antonio, TX 78207

Blogs

Signal vs. Noise
37signals.com/svn/posts

Small Business Search Marketing
www.smallbusinesssem.com

Small Biz Bee
smallbizbee.com

Small Business Trends
smallbiztrends.com

The Small Business Blog
www.sme-blog.com

The Entrepreneurial Mind
www.drjeffcornwall.com

Forums

Small Business Administration Community
www.sba.gov/community

The Small Business Community Forums
www.smallbusinessforums.org

Small Business Ideas Forum
www.smallbusinessbrief.com/forum

The Young Entrepreneur
www.youngentrepreneur.com/forum

Government

Grants.gov

House Committee On Small Business
smallbusiness.house.gov

Small Business and Self-Employed Tax Center
www.irs.gov/businesses/small

Small Business Administration (SBA)
sba.gov

U.S. Copyright Office
copyright.gov

U.S. Department of Labor
dol.gov

U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business & Entrepreneurship
sbc.senate.gov

Small Business **Development Centers**

Assistance For Entrepreneurs

Haven't the foggiest idea how to harness your entrepreneurial spirit, pull yourself anywhere using bootstraps, or think in or out of a box? Starting and running your own business is tough, but fortunately for prospective and current small business owners, SBDCs (Small Business Development Centers; asbdc-us.org) dispense with the clichés and offer training, counseling, and other assistance to help you craft your vision into a real-world success.

Run A Small Business

Pooling resources from federal, state, and local governments, as well as the private sector and the educational community, The Association of Small Business Development Centers is truly a joint venture with a vested interest in fostering small business growth. For an overview of what the SBDC can offer you and your small business, visit bit.ly/dKYe2a. The SBA (Small Business Administration; www.sba.gov) is partnered with SBDCs.

Help On Your Turf

You may be surprised to learn that there's probably an SBDC branch nearby; there are locations in all 50 states, in the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and even in the U.S. territories. There are 63 nationwide Lead Small Business Development Centers coordinating program services for every sub-center and satellite location in each state. Centers are made up of directors, full-time staff members, and various part-time staff and volunteers.

The best way to contact your nearest SBDC is to visit the Association of Small Business Development Centers' Web site (asbdc-us.org), input your ZIP code into the Find Your Nearest Small Business Development Center text box, and then click Go. The results page will highlight Lead Centers but rank centers in order of those closest to your location. Often, SBDCs partner with universities and colleges, and tend to be found on campuses across the country. On the search results page, you'll also find a link to the local office's Web page, email address, phone number, a fax number if available, and address.

Frequent Question

If you're like many other people starting a small business, funding is at the top of your mind. A common question that entrepreneurs have for SBDCs is: "Am I eligible for grant money?"

The answer depends on the nature of your business. Grants.gov (www.grants.gov) will give you a clear picture of your options before your visit to a Small Business Development Center.

The Closest Thing To A Free Lunch

The services offered may vary by location, but all SBDCs offer many services free of charge. Some typical services you can expect from your nearest SBDC include help with financial, marketing, production, organization, engineering, and technical problems and access to feasibility studies that can flesh out a fledgling business plan. Some SBDCs also offer affordable training seminars to help with various aspects of running a business. You can also rest assured that your business with the SBDC will remain confidential.

Women's Business Centers

The SBA offers WBCs (Women's Business Centers), which directly serve female entrepreneurs through nearly 100 educational centers nationwide. This organization strives to assist women in overcoming the hurdles they face in today's business environment by offering business management training and technical assistance to all women, with a special emphasis on economically or socially disadvantaged women. The services and training programs are also commonly offered in multiple languages to enable those who speak English as a second language or are still learning English. To find your nearest WBC, visit bit.ly/hs3st2.

Small Business, Big Payoff

Small business owners know that achieving success is about taking risks, innovating, and making tough decisions day in and day out. Thanks to the services offered at the SBA, SBDCs, and WBCs, you're not on your own.

Hardware

Starts at $699
www.msi.com

An AIO With An LED Display

MSI Wind Top AE2071

The environmentally friendly Wind Top AE2071 is an all-in-one PC that features an LED-backlit display, which uses about 30% less energy than a conventional flat panel backlight. The Wind Top AE2071's 20-inch screen offers a resolution of 1,600 x 900, and MSI also includes two 3-watt speakers with SRS Premium Sound into the screen bezel for audio playback. You'll be able to select between an Intel Pentium G620 or Core i3-2100 processor that both feature Intel HD Graphics for high-end multimedia performance. This all-in-one also features MSI's Smart Media Link (streams video, music, and photos to networked PCs, tablets, and Internet-connected TVs) and Smart Sync (creates secure backups and syncs data across network devices).

- This all-in-one PC frees up desk space and reduces clutter.
- The PC has energy-efficient hardware and features.
- A touch screen interface is optional.

Hardware

$69.99
www.coolermaster-usa.com

Meet Vertical Vapor Chamber Technology

Cooler Master TPC 812

With the TPC 812, Cooler Master introduces its Vertical Vapor Chamber technology to the world of CPU coolers. Compared to the design of traditional heatpipe coolers, the TPC 812 provides three times the fin contact area to more efficiently transfer heat away from your processor. Cooler Master also designs the Vertical Vapor Chamber with half the air resistance of a traditional heatpipe, which lowers the noise generated by the CPU cooler. The TPC 812 comes with one fan that attaches to the heatsink to move cool air across the aluminum fins.

- The TPC 812 features Cooler Master's Vertical Vapor Chamber technology.
- The cooler is more efficient than a traditional heatpipe CPU cooler.
- Cooler Master includes a PWM (pulse width modulation) fan that can run from 800 to 2,400rpm.

Hardware

$449.99
www.hitachigst.com

A Large-Capacity External Hard Drive

Hitachi Global Storage Technologies 4TB G-DRIVE

If you're looking to increase the storage capacity of your PC or local network area storage, consider Hitachi GST's new 4TB G-DRIVE. The external hard drive is built with Hitachi's 4TB Deskstar 7K4000 inside the G-DRIVE enclosure that provides you with fanless cooling for quiet operation. The 4TB G-DRIVE is compatible with eSATA, FireWire 800 (or FireWire 400 through an included cable), and USB 2.0 connections. To reduce power consumption, Hitachi includes built-in power management that reduces energy use during idle periods, and its voltage regulation technology improves efficiency and lowers thermal emissions. The G-DRIVE is compatible with Mac and Windows systems.

- A large 4TB capacity provides ideal storage for video, image, and music collection backup.
- Hitachi's design results in low power consumption and heat generation.
- A fast 7,200rpm spindle speed provides quick data transfer.

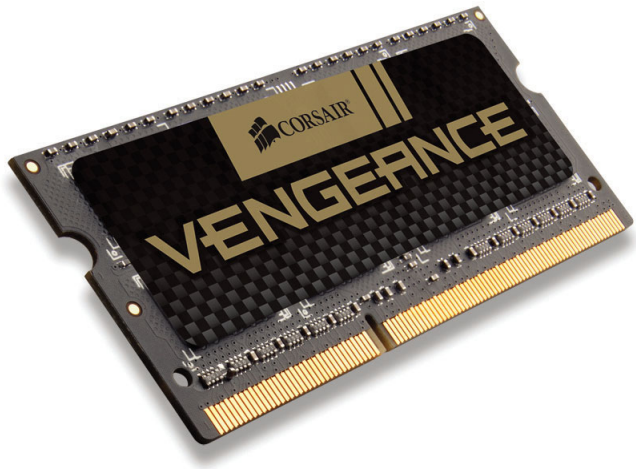
Hardware

$149.99
www.corsair.com

Upgrade Your RAM With A Fast Kit

Corsair 8GB Vengeance DDR3-1866MHz

This laptop memory upgrade kit from Corsair will improve your laptop's ability to multitask, as well as the speed at which the PC loads large files. The 8GB kit consists of two 4GB SO-DIMMs (small outline dual in-line memory modules) that operate at speeds up to 1866MHz. The memory is also compatible with 2nd Generation Intel Core i5 or i7 processors that work best with 1.5V memory modules. We'll also note that the 8GB Vengeance memory modules feature Intel XMP profiles that allow the SO-DIMM to work at its full speed automatically, so you won't need to configure the memory speed in the BIOS. The memory is backwards compatible with older chipsets, so you can still take advantage of the 8GB upgrade, even if your laptop is a few years old.



- The kit includes two 4GB modules to upgrade your laptop to 8GB of memory.
- The modules operate at up to 1866MHz.
- A built-in Intel XMP profile configures the modules automatically.

Hardware

$649.99
www.epson.com

Widescreen & HD In An Affordable Projector

Epson EX7210

The EX7210 is an HD widescreen projector that's capable of delivering 2800 lumens of color for vibrant and crisp detail—ideal to impress your audience with presentations and promotional videos. Rich color is also provided by the 3LCD technology that blends the color output from three chips. Epson includes a slide control for image correction, which gives you the freedom to project onto the screen from nearly anywhere in the room. A USB connection gives you an easy way to bring the video and audio from your PC or Mac to the boardroom, because you won't need to perform any setup. An HDMI output is also available for connection to a DVD or Blu-ray player.

- This HD projector delivers 2800 lumens of color.
- The projector includes USB Plug 'n Play for instant setup.
- The lightweight EX7210 weighs 5.1 pounds.

Hardware

$199.99
www.samsung.com

The Dual LCD Digital Camera

Samsung DV300F

The 16-megapixel DV300F from Samsung features two LCDs, one 1.5-inch front and one 3-inch rear, to improve your ability to capture self-portraits. This digital camera also features built-in Wi-Fi to let you share and back up your photos whenever you're in range of your home or office Wi-Fi. For example, you can email pictures to colleagues or have them automatically uploaded to popular social media websites, including Flickr, YouTube, and Facebook. You can even wirelessly back up content on the memory card to Samsung's AllShare Play and Microsoft's Sky-Drive cloud backup. The DV300F features a 5X optical zoom and uses a 25mm wide-angle lens to optimize your ability to capture different types of scenes. A Split Shot feature is available to help you merge images into a single photo.

- A front-facing LCD helps you compose self-portraits.
- Wi-Fi connectivity allows for automatic backup and wireless uploads.
- The camera is available in black, silver, navy, and red.

Hardware

Starts at $399.99
www.sonystyle.com

A Powerful Tablet

Sony Tablet S

Available in 16GB and 32GB storage capacities, Sony's Tablet S features Nvidia's Tegra 2 mobile processor for smooth playback of multimedia, as well as speedy loading of email and Web content. The Tablet S devices run Android 3.2 and include front- and rear-facing cameras for convenient video chat and still image capture. The Tablet S can be purchased with both Wi-Fi and 4G capabilities for Internet access wherever you go. Built-in network connectivity with other devices, such as an Internet-connected TV, PC, or speakers, makes it easy to share content from the Tablet S. Sony includes access to its Reader Store, which has more than 2 million titles, including magazines, newspapers, and books.

- You can customize Tablet S with access to the thousands of Android Market apps.
- Optimized hardware and software delivers a responsive, intuitive user experience.
- The tablet has up to eight hours of battery life.

Hardware

Starts at $4,995
www.cyberpowerpc.com

A Server & High-end PC In One Box

CyberPower Fang III Black Mamba

The Fang III Black Mamba is actually two computers in one. You'll have one independent system for powerful computing, while the second one can run Windows Home Server 2011 to perform daily backups from every computer on the network, including the server. Additionally, CyberPower can install its OC Media Server Station to make the second system into a server that stores all of your digital media. You'll be able to remotely access the server to upload and download files from the server through a secure, personalized URL. The independent system can include Intel's fastest 2nd Generation Intel Core i7 processors, which CyberPower can overclock to make it 30% faster, while Nvidia's GTX 590 graphics cards provide you with a flawless computing experience.

- This 2-in-1 PC provides a server with high-end computing power.
- The Fang III Black Mamba is overclocked to deliver additional value and power from Intel's 2nd Generation processors.
- The system is completely customizable to suit your needs.

Hardware

Price To Be Announced
www.gigabyte.com

A Powerful Business Tablet

GIGABYTE S1081 Slate PC

The S1081 Slate PC is a 10.1-inch tablet that's designed for business users and professionals. It runs Windows 7, which means you can install and use standard applications. To control this slate, GIGABYTE provides you with a multi-touch display, as well as an optical trackpad for situations where you need precision cursor movement. An Intel Atom Cedar Trail processor powers the S1081, and the new chip features a built-in graphics processor that can decode HD video and other popular video formats. Both HDMI and VGA ports are provided to give you a couple of ways to connect to HDTVs and projectors during presentations.

- The S1081 features an energy-efficient Intel Atom Cedar Trail processor.
- Because the tablet runs Windows 7, you're already familiar with the tablet's OS.
- The multi-touch display and optical trackpad you can navigate the tablet easily with your fingers.

Hardware

$49.99
www.rosewill.com

An Extremely Portable External DVD Burner

Rosewill ROD-EX003

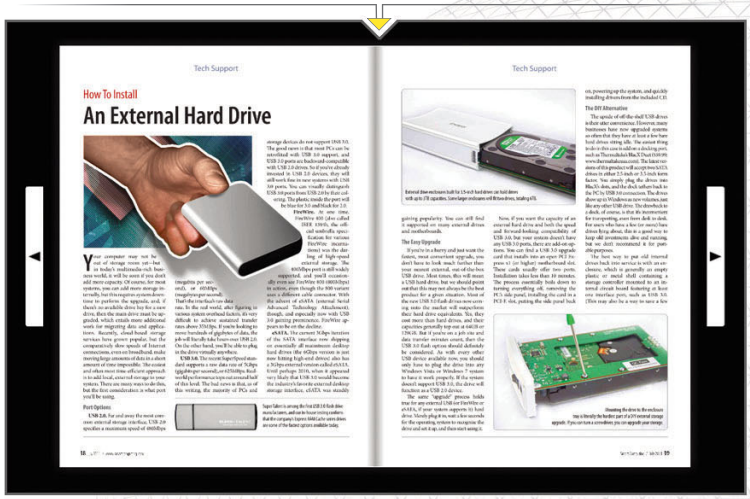
This slim external DVD burner requires only a USB connection for power, so you won't need to pack a bulky power adapter to operate it. The lightweight, USB powered design is ideal for laptop owners who want a portable DVD drive to install applications and play movies while on the go. Rosewill built the ROD-EX003 with SMART-X monitoring tools to automatically adjust read-speeds for optimal file transfer. A SMART-BURN tool examines the disc for supported write speeds to let you switch among the available write speeds. The ROD-EX003 can read/write CDs at up to 24X speed, and DVDs at up to 8X speed. You'll be also be able to burn dual-layer DVDs at up to 6X.

- The ROD-EX003 powers itself from your mobile device via USB.
- The burner can read/write CDs at 24X and DVDs at 8X.
- LightScribe disc labeling gives your DVDs a professional look.

Your Guide To New Technology

When you buy technology for your home or small office, a little research can go a long way.

That's why *Smart Computing* brings you news, reviews, and instructions for setting up the latest products each month. We keep you up to speed on computers, components, software, and the ever-growing world of online services. Our plain-English articles define unfamiliar, technology-related words so you can shop with confidence. What's more, *Smart Computing* shows you how to set up and use many of the products available today. A $29 subscription to *Smart Computing* includes 12 print issues and access to the Digital Edition (including past issues online) for a year.



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WWW.SMARTCOMPUTING.COM

Accessories

$29.99
www.thermaltake.com

Cool Your Notebook

Thermaltake Massive23 GT

This notebook cooler from Thermaltake can help dissipate heat from your laptop or tablet, which will help increase its lifespan and improve performance when under load. There are five adjustable heights, so you can set up the display height and viewing angle to your liking. The Massive23 GT's anti-slip rubber design keeps your laptop seated directly above the 200mm fan, and there are also pop-out feet to hold laptops from 10 to 17 inches. The Massive23 GT offers fan speed controls that you can adjust between 500 and 800rpm to match your cooling and noise level preferences. For portable device charging, there are two USB ports and one Mini USB.

- The cooler can be adjusted to five different heights.
- A large 200mm fan provides high airflow.
- A rubber grip and flip-out feet hold your notebook securely in place.

Accessories

$99.99
www.logitech.com

1080p HD Webcam Video

Logitech HD Pro Webcam C920

The HD Pro Webcam C920 offers you 1080p video resolution with the Skype 5.7 Beta version, so people you video chat with will enjoy seeing HD quality from your webcam. It also supports a resolution of 720p with Windows Live Messenger. For optimal video quality, Logitech installs Carl Zeiss optics with a 20-step autofocus that helps provide crisp focus. The C920 also includes a built-in H.264 encoder, called Logitech Fluid Crystal Technology, to smooth out HD video streams that often bog down a PC's processor. The overall result is a sharper picture and less choppiness than what you'd experience with a traditional webcam. For high-end audio, Logitech includes dual-stereo microphones with noise reduction to eliminate background sounds that can be distracting during a call.

- The webcam supports HD video resolutions with Skype and Windows Live Messenger.
- Advanced compression technology provides smooth video.
- A 20-step autofocus gives responsive, accurate focus.

Accessories

$49.99
www.us.liteonit.com

An External DVD Burner With MyDisk Suite Software

Lite-On eNAU708

Lite-On's new external slim DVD writer comes with Lite-On's MyDisk Suite, which is a group of utilities that provides you with a straightforward way to back up and transfer content—even from your iPhone or iPad. For example, the DiskMobile tool provides the eNAU708 with a unique Internet address where you can wirelessly transfer content from your iPhone or iPad to back it up, which is great for photos and other mobile data you want to keep. The DiskCollection tool is burning software that features a simple drag-and-drop interface, and the utility saves the file contents into a searchable index, so files are easy to find. A DiskIndex application lets you create a CD or DVD with a menu that helps people find content easily .

- The writer has write speeds of 8X DVD±R and 24X CD.
- This USB-powered optical drive weighs less than a pound.
- Easily transfer and burn content to disc from devices.

Accessories

$54.99
www.corsair.com

A Flash Drive With Security

16GB Corsair Flash Padlock 2

The Flash Padlock 2 from Corsair is a flash drive with a PIN keypad that allows you to protect your files behind 256-bit data encryption. You can create your own four-to-10-digit PIN, so you can come up with a number that means something only to you. Once unlocked, the Flash Padlock 2 works on any system, including Mac- and Linux-based computers, because there's no software to install. The 16GB of storage gives you plenty of room for your sensitive work documents and PowerPoint presentations. To prevent access if the device is lost, the Flash Padlock 2 automatically locks for two minutes if there are multiple failed entries. The flash drive itself is protected by a ruggedized rubber exterior.

- 256-bit encryption secures your most important data.
- 16GB of storage gives you room for large files with images or video.
- The drive is compatible with any system.

Software

Pricing starts at $2,195 for five PC licenses
www.waspbarcode.com

Add Real-Time Inventory Tracking

Wasp Inventory Control v6 RF Professional

Wasp Inventory Control v6 RF Professional introduces real-time inventory tracking to eliminate the need to batch transfer changes to inventory, so you'll be able to ensure stock levels are accurate. You'll just need to be within range of your company's Wi-Fi network for real-time access to view and update inventory records and/or locations. You can track inventory costs using LIFO (last in, first out), FIFO (first in, first out), or Moving Average methods. The new version of Inventory Control RF Professional also gives you the ability to attach images and files to inventory records, which makes them easier to access across the network. Inventory items can be imported from external sources to simplify the setup of Wasp Inventory Control.

- Wasp Inventory Control provides real-time visibility of stock levels and locations.
- The software can use existing 802.11 b/g/n Wi-Fi networks and Wasp Unifi RF hardware.
- Free tech support and getting started training are included.

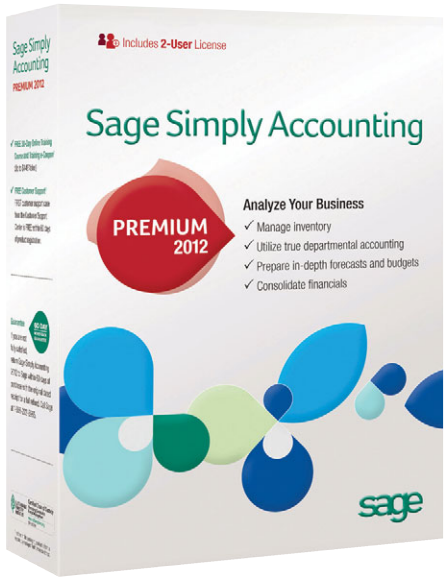
Software

$399.99 (two users)
www.sagenorthamerica.com

Bilingual Payroll Software

Sage Simply Accounting Premium 2012

Simply Accounting Premium 2012 is completely bilingual (English and Spanish), and it also supports multicurrency invoicing, so it's ideal for businesses that deal with international clients. New features in Simply Accounting 2012 include a redesigned interface for a more flexible payroll, as well as the ability to switch between one employee and a group on the fly. You can track and pay remittances with payments made via cash, check, credit card, or direct deposit. Sage's Simply Accounting Intelligence provides you with detailed reports to help small business owners see a quick overview of income and help achieve business goals.



- You can create invoices in English or Spanish and work in the language with which you're most comfortable.
- Simply Accounting Premium provides you with comprehensive reports with income statements.
- The software simplifies critical tasks to easily maintain finances.

Software

Pricing begins at $6 a month per user
www.microsoft.com

Take Microsoft Office To The Cloud

Microsoft Office 365

Office 365 is a cloud service that delivers access to Microsoft Office, SharePoint Online, Exchange Online, and Lync Online to your company through the Web to work on virtually any PC, Mac, or mobile phone. You'll enjoy access to all Microsoft's familiar productivity applications, and Microsoft will manage your reliability and security. An administration console will give you the power to easily manage user accounts and access rights, which will take the worry out of IT. Each user receives a 25GB mailbox that he can use with Microsoft Outlook, and he can send email messages up to 25MB in size. Colleagues can share calendars and view them side by side for quick collaboration with co-workers.

- Office 365 lets you work from anywhere you have a Web connection.
- The subscription service provides access to Microsoft's familiar productivity tools.
- Microsoft backs the software for security and reliability.

Software

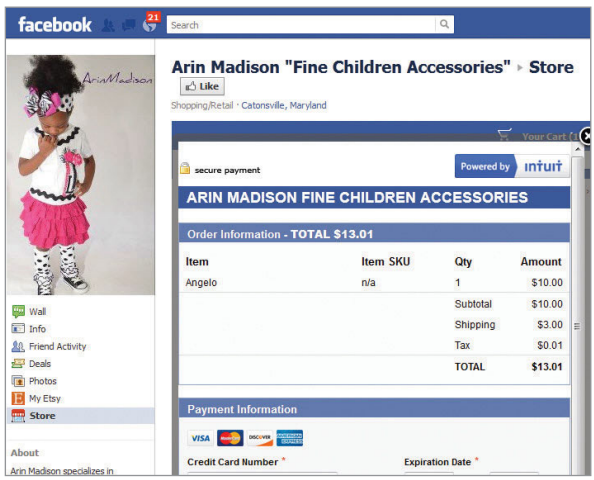
$34.98 a month
www.intuit.com

Do Business On Your Facebook Page

Intuit SimpleStore For Facebook

SimpleStore For Facebook is an add-on for Intuit's SimpleStore e-commerce software that will create a tab on your Facebook business page—based on the products currently listed in your existing SimpleStore—where customers can securely check out using Intuit Web Payment. You'll have the ability to sell up to 100 different products. The e-commerce capabilities give you a way to take orders 24 hours a day, and it'll help to keep costs down, because you can store the products in a warehouse, rather than take up space in a physical shop. Intuit also provides SimpleStore customers with unlimited phone support, five personalized email accounts, and 5GB of hard drive space.

- All SimpleStore products will show up in your Facebook business page.
- SimpleStore for Facebook can manage Web store and online payments from one place.
- This software can help turn your Facebook page into a money maker.



Software

$179.99
www.punchsoftware.com

Design In 3D

Punch Software Home & Landscape Design

Home & Landscape Design Professional NexGen 3 provides you with everything you'll need if you're a remodeler, landscaper, or general contractor. For home planning, Punch Software includes an elevation editor that allows you to view elevations in full color with object positioning. You can even place or stack windows in 3D. This software also lets you choose default materials before you start, such as type of windows, so you won't need to manually select every addition. Landscapers will like the grow tool, which takes advantage of global sun positioning, to view how shade will affect plantings as they grow. Design tools are also available for custom decks, patios, and pools, so you can quickly create attractive examples of how a finished project will appear.

- This professional software works to precise dimensions as you draw.
- Plenty of editable templates get you started quickly.
- 3D photorealistic reflections provide attractive finished designs for clients.

Software

Contact Insperity about pricing
www.insperity.com

Track Time Easily

Insperity TimeStar

This Web-based software is a timekeeping system that allows you to collect, analyze, and manage employee work hours. Insperity TimeStar also integrates with existing payroll and accounting software, as well as human resource information systems, so it's easy to assimilate into your work environment. Attendance data collection can be performed through badge and biometric time clocks, smartphones, telephony, and Web-based time clocks to fit how your employees clock in. TimeStar can be purchased as licensed software for your organization, as a hosted subscription with per-employee and per-month pricing, or as a managed hosted service that outsources the IT component of TimeStar. Real-time monitoring and alerts can help you reduce overtime, and TimeStar's reporting capabilities will give you insight into labor costs.

Insperity™ TimeStar®

- Eliminate error from manual methods of time tracking.
- TimeStar helps control time and attendance costs.
- Expedite payroll processing.

Software

$149.95
www.cyberlink.com

Powerful Photo-Editing Software

CyberLink PhotoDirector 3

PhotoDirector 3 includes a host of editing tools to quickly remove objects and people from images, as well as to reduce lens defects and other distortions. For example, when editing a portrait, you'll be able to remove wrinkles and whiten teeth with a people beautifier tool. A geometric correction feature will help fix issues caused by exaggerations with wide-angle and telephoto lenses. Another new effect in PhotoDirector 3 is the ability to add special effects to only given areas of an image. For example, you could blur the background of a photo and use the brush to clean away any areas that you want to appear as the original. PhotoDirector supports a wide range of RAW file formats for superb results from D-SLRs.

- PhotoDirector 3 includes a photo management tool to help you organize your images.
- New adjustment tools for balance, sharpness, noise reduction, and tone control are included.
- Advanced editing features let you create innovative images.

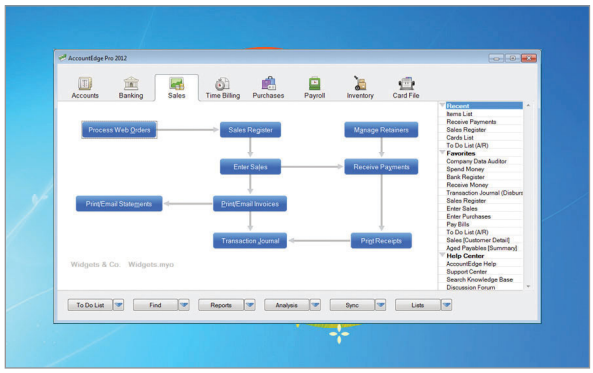
Software

$299
accountedge.com

A Complete Accounting Solution For Your Small Business

Acclivity AccountEdge Pro 2012

With AccountEdge Pro 2012, you can manage all of your financials with one application. For example, you can prepare a quote for a customer, turn it into an invoice, and track (and bill) your time. In terms of payment management, the software allows you to write checks and prepare bank deposits, as well as edit, record, and process paychecks. AccountEdge Pro 2012 also provides you with tools to take control of your inventory with multiple pricing levels, kit-building, and negative inventory. The 2012 edition of AccountEdge Pro includes a redesigned command center, which includes features that simplify the navigation of your company's files. With 2012, you'll also be able to incorporate mileage tracking in invoices and create multiple billing rates for the same activity.



- AccountEdge Pro 2012 is available for both Windows and Mac users.
- You can add up to 15 simultaneous users with workstation licenses.
- Manage inventory, banking, accounts payable, and customers.

The Nokia Lumia 710 sports Windows Phone, a sizable touch screen, and a quality camera.

MICROSOFT NEWS

Nokia Teams Up With Windows Phone

Nokia phones sporting the Windows Phone OS have been getting plenty of attention. The first such phone is the Lumia 710, which has a 3.7-inch touch screen. A key feature is the ClearBlack technology, which makes the screen easy to read in indoors and outdoors. The phone also boasts a 5MP (megapixel) camera, which includes autofocus capabilities and an LED (light-emitting diode) flash. Battery life is estimated at seven hours of talk time or 16 days in standby mode.

Users will enjoy the phone's support for voice commands: Simply ask the phone for a contact's phone number or for the location of a nearby restaurant, and Windows Phone will retrieve it for you. The phone can also provide turn-by-turn directions when you travel. Of course, it wouldn't be a Windows Phone without Internet Explorer 9 Mobile and loads of social network options, including built-in apps such as Facebook, Gmail, Hotmail, LinkedIn, Twitter, and other services. As we went to print, the phone was available for as little as $39.99 (after a rebate) via T-Mobile (nokia-windows-phone.t-mobile.com). The phone supports T-Mobile's 4G network.

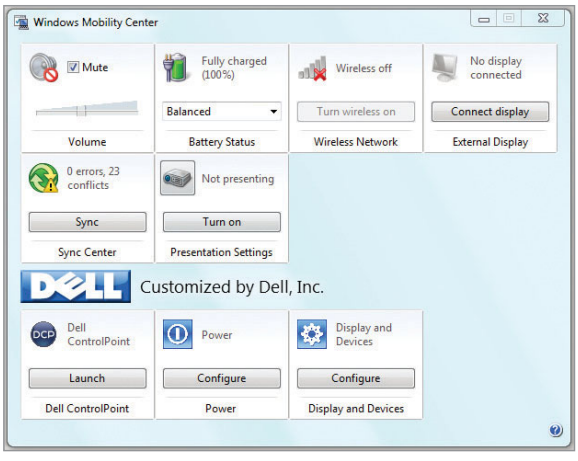
WINDOWS TIPS

Windows Mobility Center

This is a great feature for laptop users. Click Start, Control Panel, and then click Adjust Commonly Used Mobility Settings under Hardware And Sound. The Windows Mobility Center provides buttons and sliders that can help you quickly adjust the volume, power on your wireless adapter, connect a second display, or turn on presentation settings (among other features). Your laptop's manufacturer may have customized this console by adding additional buttons to help you configure other settings, as well.

Install Programs From The Network

If your company makes certain programs available over the network, you may be able to download them via the Get Programs console. Click Start, Control Panel, and then click Get Programs under Programs. This window displays any programs available over your network. Select the program you'd like to install and then click Install. ❙



When you're in a hurry (or about to start a presentation), the Mobility Center provides any easy way to make important changes to your laptop's Windows settings.

WINDOWS NEWS

Mice Go Multi-Touch

Thanks to smartphones, tablets, and touch screen monitors, people are becoming used to controlling technology with touch gestures. One of the devices bringing the mouse into the era of touch is the Microsoft Touch Mouse ($79.95; www.microsoftstore.com), which lets people navigate Windows 7 by flicking their fingers and thumbs across the surface of the wireless mouse. Microsoft also offers an Artist Edition at the same price.

The Microsoft Touch Mouse lets you swipe and flick your way through Windows 7. We like that you can use your thumb for additional gestures.

Manage & Secure Your PCs

Microsoft's new Windows Intune (tinyurl.com/3qut7xg) is a cloud-based PC security and management service aimed at businesses of all sizes. The service lets you deploy updates and handle management tasks from anywhere, via a Web-based console. It also provides antivirus protection for your PCs. You can use a calculator at the Windows Intune website to calculate your company's ROI (Return On Investment). The site also provides a free 30-day trial of Windows Intune.

Startups Get A Shot At Free Windows Azure

Startups in several TechStars (www.techstars.com) accelerators will receive as much as $60,000 of free access to Windows Azure over the next two years, thanks to the new BizSpark Plus (www.microsoft.com/bizspark) program. Windows Azure (www.windowsazure.com) is a cloud platform that provides significant computing power and storage space for businesses. It can be used for database-driven websites, mobile applications, and many other compute- or storage-heavy tasks. ❙

Windows Remote Assistance

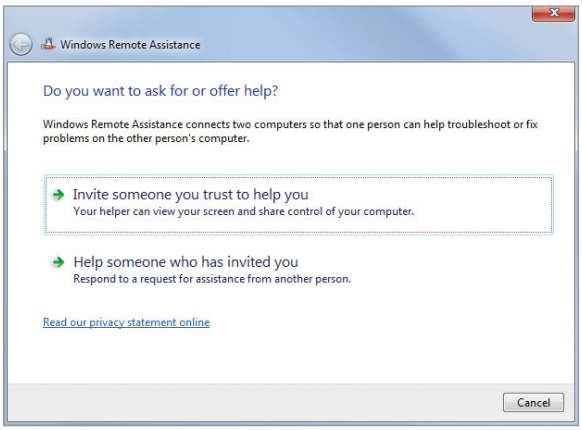
Troubleshoot From Afar

Productivity doesn't have to come to a screeching halt when a remote employee can't fix a PC-related problem himself or when the on-staff tech support wizard is on the road. Windows Remote Assistance, Microsoft's built-in Web-based troubleshooting tool, lets one user connect to and view the Desktop of another user's computer, as well as take control of the system's mouse and keyboard to change settings, view system parameters, uninstall and install applications, and attempt repairs. Thanks to Windows Remote Assistance, a major roadblock can quickly become a minor detour, no matter where the users are physically located.

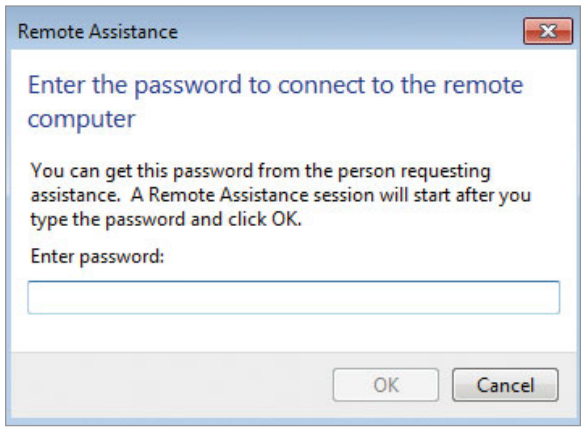
Thanks to Windows Remote Assistance, a major roadblock can quickly become a minor detour, no matter where the users are physically located.

Step 1

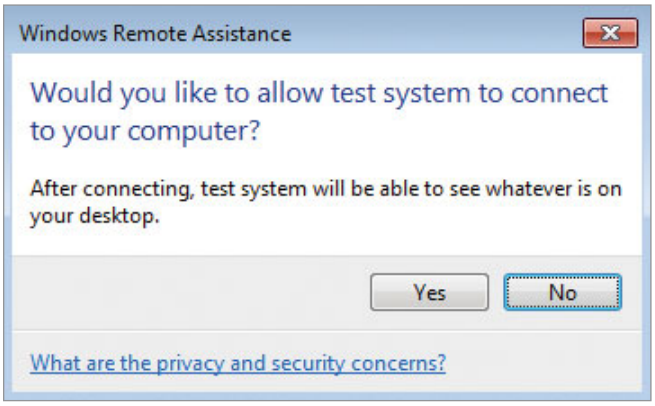
A Windows Remote Assistance session begins when the user who needs help initiates contact with a person he or she trusts. (For the purposes of this article, the target computer refers to the one in need of troubleshooting and the helper refers to the remote user who will take control of the PC.) In order for the target computer's user to get remote assistance, he or she needs to send the helper an invitation. To do this, open the Start menu, type **assistance**, and then press the ENTER key. This launches the Windows Remote Assistance wizard.



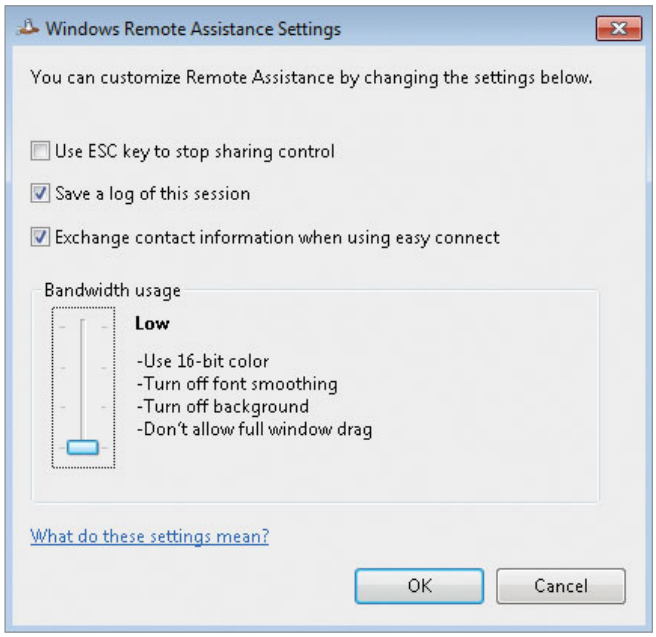
Both the target and helper computer users will see this when they first launch Windows Remote Assistance.



The helper needs to input the password to proceed.



Click Yes to allow the helper to connect remotely to your PC.



If you experience lag, make sure the Bandwidth Usage slider is set to Low.

Step 2

Next, click Invite Someone You Trust To Help You. Your options are to Save This Invitation As A File (so you can send it as an attachment using your preferred Web mail provider), Use E-mail To Send An Invitation (which launches a compatible email application that you currently use, such as Outlook), or Use Easy Connect. We'll explore Easy Connect later.

The first two options let the target computer user connect to the remote user in the same way; once you send the email or save the file, Windows Remote Assistance will display a 12-digit password that the target computer user will need to relay to the remote user.

Step 3

If you are acting as the helper, and you have received a Remote Assistance invite, then click Help Someone Who Has Invited You. You can also proceed by simply launching the Remote Assistance invite, which opens the connection password input dialog box. Next, the helper needs to input the code and click OK. The user at the target computer will then need to confirm the connection by clicking Yes when the Would You Like To Allow X To Connect To Your Computer (where X is the name of the remote user's computer.)

Step 4 (Optional)

Now the helper will see an image of the target computer's Desktop. Either the helper or the user at the target computer can initiate a chat session by clicking the Chat button at the top of the Windows Remote Assistance window. You can also click the Settings button and adjust the Bandwidth Usage slider to display 32-bit color, enable font smoothing, turn on the background, and allow full window dragging. But these adjustments are purely aesthetic.

Step 5

At this point, the user at the target computer still has control of the PC, so

If you are acting as the helper, and you have received a Remote Assistance invite, then click Help Someone Who Has Invited You. You can also proceed by simply launching the Remote Assistance invite, which opens the connection password input dialog box.

To gain remote access of the target computer, the helper needs to click the Request Control button from the top left of the Windows Remote Assistance window.

Windows Remote Assistance Easy Connect

This aptly named feature lets users of two Windows 7 systems initiate a Windows Remote Assistance session without first exchanging an invitation file. Note that a fast network connection may also be necessary.

Step 1

Start by launching Windows Remote Assistance and then clicking the Invite Someone You Trust To Help You button. Click Use Easy Connect, if available.

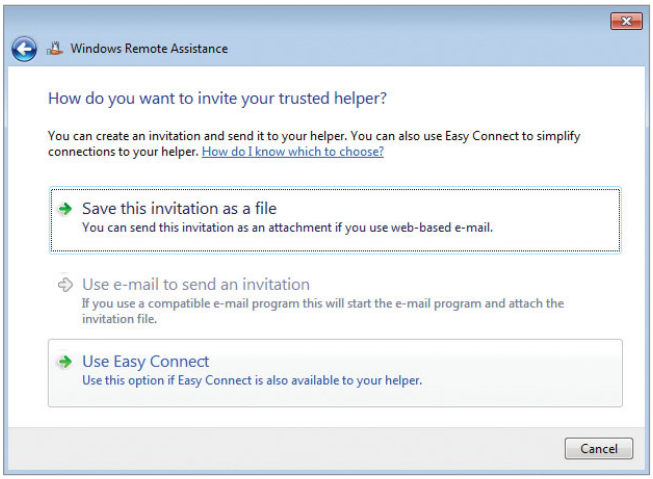
Step 2

The helper needs to launch Windows Remote Assistance, click the Help Someone Who Has Invited You button, click Use Easy Connect, input the code from the target system, and then click OK. Once the connection has been established, the Windows Remote Assistance session works the same as if it had been set up using the email method.

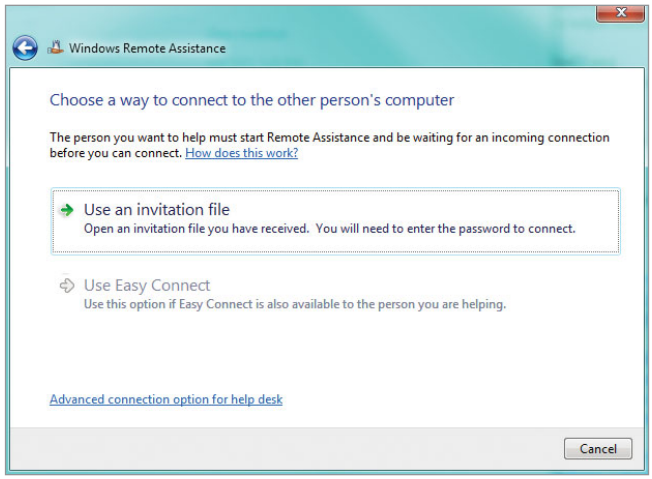
use this opportunity to demonstrate the problem for the helper, by re-creating the error or demonstrating the problem.

To gain remote access of the target computer, the helper needs to click the Request Control button from the top left of the Windows Remote Assistance window. The target computer user then needs to click Yes and check the box to enable the remote user to handle User Account Control prompts. Although both users can input commands, launch applications, move the cursor, and input keyboard commands, it's best that the user at the target computer leave the mouse and keyboard alone to let the remote user perform the troubleshooting tasks.

To interrupt the session at any time, click the Pause button, which blacks out the helper's view and halts his ability to control the target system. This is ideal for enabling the target computer user to input passwords or private data. To resume, the target computer's user must click Continue. To quit the session entirely, either user can click the Stop Sharing button at the top of the screen. ❙



The Easy Connect feature lets you skip the email step entirely.



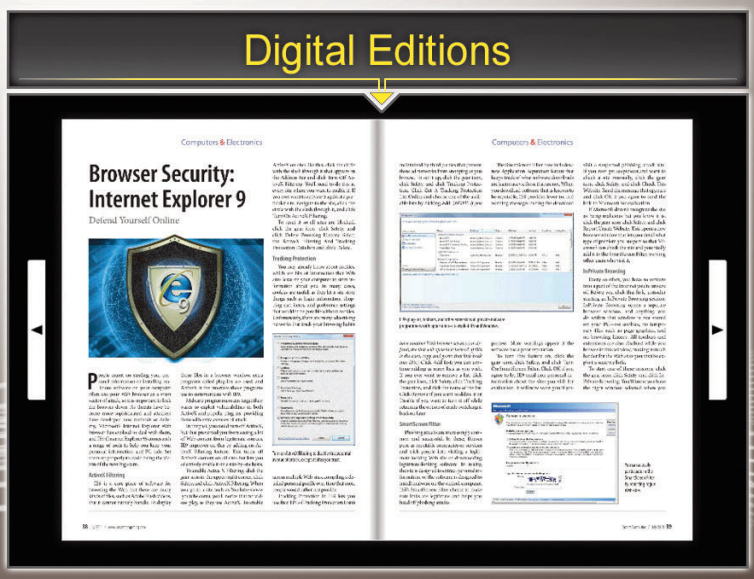
If you don't meet the minimum requirements for Easy Connect (both PCs need to be running Win7), you will need to use the Invitation File method.

The Tech Info You Need, In Plain English

You don't need to be an IT guru to buy and maintain computers and gadgets for your home or small office. *Smart Computing* keeps you up-to-date with plain-English articles that explain new technology and define technical terms. Each issue includes news, tutorials, and step-by-step troubleshooting guides.

More than a typical magazine, *Smart Computing* is a reference tool. Benefit from the years of tech support advice archived on our Web site as well as access to our Digital Editions from any Internet-connected PC.

Print



Smart Computing In Plain English

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WWW.SMARTCOMPUTING.COM

Promote Your Business

The Benefits Of Facebook Marketing

With more than 800 million active users, Facebook is one of the premiere social networking tools for businesses. Additionally, Facebook indicates that the average user is connected to more than 80 community pages, groups, and events, which means Facebook is a great way to connect with local consumers. Here, we'll talk about some ways that you can use Facebook to improve exposure and communicate with customers.

Here's an example of a Facebook Page from *Smart Computing*.

Facebook Pages & Groups

There are two Facebook tools you can use for your business: Pages and Groups. A Facebook Page is similar to a traditional Facebook profile, in that you can post updates and upload pictures, but rather than a friends list, you'll have a fan list. The primary difference is that Fans cannot post to your Facebook wall (though they can comment and "Like" items you post), so only your updates will appear on the Facebook Page. Any update that you post will appear on your Facebook Page and will also appear in your Fans' lists of status updates, which you can utilize to deliver updates about new products and services or any other piece of news you want customers to know about.

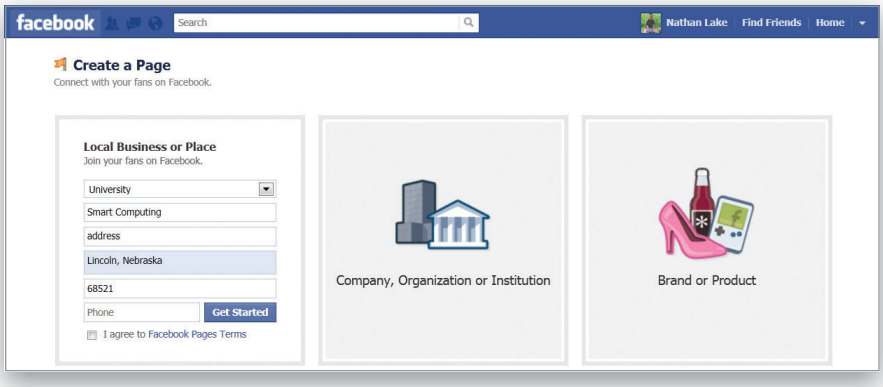
Facebook Groups require that any members must be approved by or added to the group, and there are a number of permission settings to give you the ability to restrict access. Unlike a Facebook Page, the communication options for a Group are many, including chats; shared images and documents; and scheduled group events. Group admins can send updates to members, but because the group requires effort to manage, it's often best-suited to host quick discussions or other small-scale projects that require collaboration. For mass communication, a Facebook Page makes for easier interaction.

Create A Facebook Page

To set up the Facebook Page for your business, open your Web browser and go to www.facebook.com/pages/create.php, where you'll find options for all types of companies and brands. Note that if you haven't already set up a Facebook account, you'll need to do so before you can create a Group or Page. Small businesses will likely select the Local Business Or Place option, but if you have one product you specialize in, you may also want to select the Brand Or Product page to highlight your unique product. Depending on what type of Page you select, the setup options will vary, but generally, you'll upload a photo, invite fans, and provide basic information about your business.

Create A Facebook Group

Visit www.facebook.com/groups and click Create Group, which will bring up a Create New Group window. Enter



When creating a Facebook Page, you'll be able to select from local business, organization, and brand options.

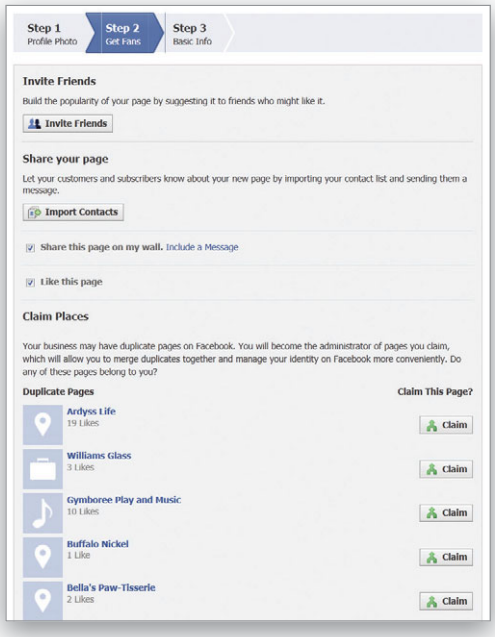
the group name and add members to participate. Under Privacy, you can select among the Open (anyone can see the group and posts), Closed (anyone can see the group, but not the posts), and Secret (only members can see the group). Once the group is created, you can post, ask questions, add images, and create events.

Integrate Facebook

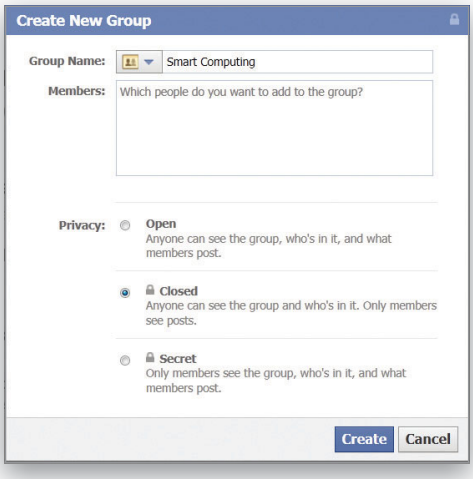
You'll want to link your Facebook page to your website and vice versa. For example, Facebook offers a number of social plug-ins that you can add to your website so visitors can easily connect with you. A Like button on the individual product pages will let visitors share the Web address with their friends on Facebook. You may also want to create a unique name for your Facebook Page with a custom URL that'll be easy to list (as well as remember) on a business card or website. Note that you'll need at least 25 followers to receive a custom URL. The Comments plug-in is also handy because it lets visitors comment on the bottom of any Web page. If you're looking to help users register for your website, consider the Registration plug-in that lets your visitors use a Facebook account as a login.

Fan Engagement

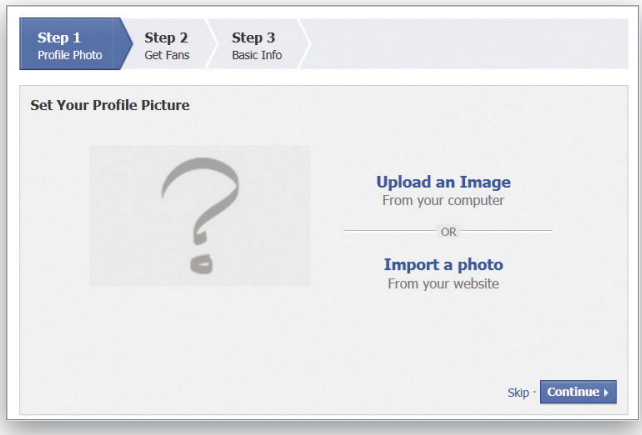
Facebook Pages are primarily designed to give you an easy way to interact with customers, so this is your chance to give them a good reason to



There are a variety of ways for you to attract fans to your Facebook Page.



You can add members and control what type of privacy is set up when you create a Facebook Group.



It's important to upload a current logo or other business image, so that people identify your brand when they see your Facebook Page.

Adding a Like button to your website makes it easy for fans to follow your Facebook updates.

continue patronizing your business. A variety of marketing techniques are viable here, including special promotions and links to positive reviews. That being said, not everything you post should necessarily be a sales pitch, or you may turn off prospective customers. Asking fans for their opinions or having them vote on a poll provides you with some meaningful interaction, as well as an opportunity for new ideas. Alternatively, you can give your fans a reason to check in with your business by providing advice about topics in which your business specializes. For example, an accounting firm could cover common mistakes people make or deductions that are often overlooked when filing their taxes.

Maximize The Facebook Page

Whatever your business, there's a way you can use Facebook to market your products and services. Keep in mind that Facebook Pages are indexed in Google search results, so it also provides you with another avenue for people to find you on the Internet.

Facebook DO's & DON'Ts

Here are some key things you'll want to keep in mind when adding content to your Facebook Page.

- ▷ Do add content to the Facebook Page that matches up with the message you want to send to prospective and existing customers.
- ▷ Do mix business posts with messages that give fans an idea of the personality of your company.
- ▷ Do post updates that keep fans interested in what you're doing, whether it be a new product or special deals.

- ▢ Don't spam fans with commercial marketing.
- ▢ Don't post images that are too personal or casual for business purposes.
- ▢ Don't ignore messages from fans or user comments.

Quick Study

OpenOffice.org 3

Create A Form Letter

As a small business owner, you're constantly on the lookout for ways to deliver more value to your customers, and automating as many processes as possible is one way you can accomplish this without increasing the overall workload. Form letters are a great way to keep in contact with your customers, offer incentives, and more. In this example, we're going to create a form letter that will remind Sandhills HVAC, Inc.'s customers of upcoming scheduled and recommended maintenance calls.

Your Database

The key to making this work is having a database file to use as your form letter's source. The easiest way to do this is to launch OpenOffice.org 3, click Database, click the Create A New Database radio button, and then click Finish. From here, you can create Tables, Queries, Forms, and Reports manually or using wizards.

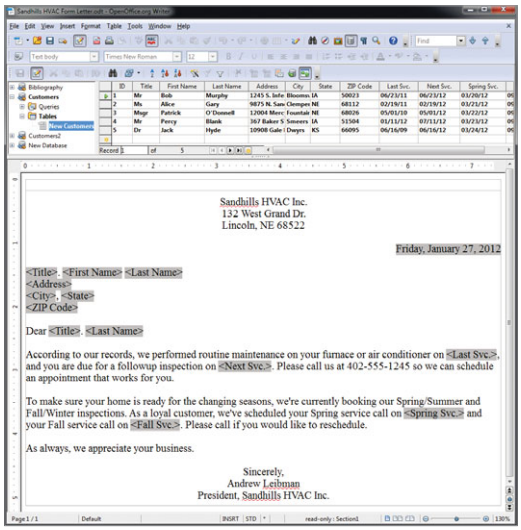
The Letter

To begin a form letter, start by launching OpenOffice.org 3 and clicking Text Document. Next, access the data source, in this instance a Database file of the customers and their past and future service dates. From the blank Text document, click View, and then click Data Sources. You can also press F4 to display the Data Sources pane. Navigate to the Database file in the window in the upper-left corner of the screen and click the appropriate data source, in this case, the New Customers spreadsheet.

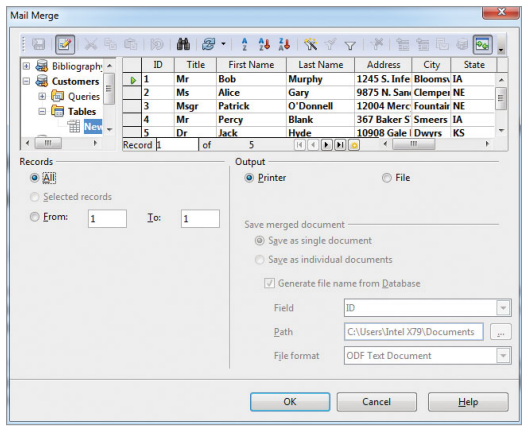
Type the text of the form letter as you'd like it to appear on all letters, but leave out any data you plan to input from the Data Source. For instance, we started with the letter head of the business and the date. To create the inside address, salutation, and other parts of the form letter that can be sourced to the Database, simply click and drag the column title from the spreadsheet above the form letter to the appropriate spot in the letter. To create the salutation, we dragged the Title, First Name, and Last Name to a single line, inserting spaces and punctuation where needed, adding a paragraph break, and then dragging Address, State, and ZIP Code. We also added the service dates into the body of the form letter where appropriate.

Ready For Print

When the letter is formatted how you like, just click File and Print. A pop-up dialog box will inform you that the form letter contains address database fields. Click Yes, click the column of data you want to include on the Mail Merge dialog box, and then click OK. The printed form will have the information for that customer all filled in and ready to send. ❙



Form letters can save you loads of time when trying to contact multiple people.



Make sure you select the customer from the Mail Merge window before you click OK.

Business Tech

SSDs

Solid-state drives are PC storage devices that serve the same purpose as HDDs (hard disk drives). As the name implies, SSDs dispense with the spinning magnetic platters and pivoting actuator arm and instead utilize multiple solid-state memory chips fused to a piece of printed circuit board. But because SSDs utilize the same interface as HDDs, you can generally substitute the former with the latter.

A Solid Design

When comparing the two storage technologies side by side, most of the SSD's advantages over a mechanical hard drive are the result of its solid-state nature. Because there are no moving parts, SSDs are resistant to damage from shock, which makes them particularly useful for compact mobile devices, such as notebooks and tablets. They are also not susceptible to the same physical wear and tear as HDDs, which makes them particularly reliable and ideally suited to mission-critical storage applications.

Smaller Is Better

Another advantage of SSDs is that they are available in smaller sizes than traditional HDDs. For the most part, SSDs come in a 2.5-inch form factor, which is the same as notebook hard drives. Unlike notebook hard drives, however, which generally run slower than their desktop counterparts, SSDs are just as fast in notebooks as they are in desktops. With the proper mounting bracket installed in your PC case, you can install two 2.5-inch SSDs into a standard 3.5-inch hard drive bay and up to four SSDs into a standard 5.25-inch optical drive bay. SSDs also consume less energy, generate less

SSDs are small, fast, cool, and quiet. What's not to love?

heat, and are utterly silent in comparison to HDDs.

A Homogenous Interface

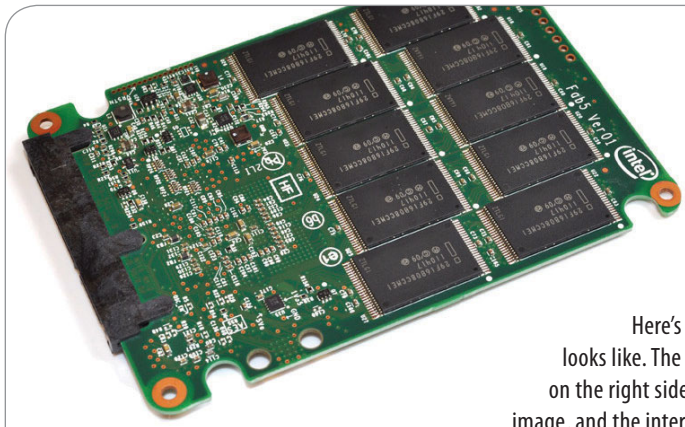
If you want to upgrade your PC with an SSD, all you need is a PC that supports SATA (Serial Advanced Technology Attachment) devices and a free SATA power connector from your power supply. If you have a computer manufactured in the last few years, there's a good chance your mechanical hard drive uses these interfaces for data and power already. The SATA interface consists of a narrow L-shaped plug for data communication and a wider L-shaped connector for power. If your PC only accepts EIDE (Enhanced Integrated Drive Electronics) storage drives, denoted by wide ribbon cables and a 39-pin interface for data communications, then you'll not be able to simply swap your HDD with an SSD.

The SSD's Trump Card

Most PCs for sale today feature one or more SATA 3 ports, meaning that an SSD or HDD plugged into one of these ports can achieve throughputs up to 6Gbps (gigabits per second). In lieu of a SATA 3 port, a system with SATA 2 ports will also work with SSDs, but the drive will be limited to 3Gbps throughputs. Although both storage technologies support SATA 3 speeds, SSDs are capable of achieving significantly faster read and write speeds, which is one of the best reasons to upgrade to an SSD. Keep in mind: To support the fastest speed for which the SSD is rated, you'll need to connect it to a SATA port on the motherboard capable of supporting, and use cables that are designated to operate at, the SSD's peak speeds.

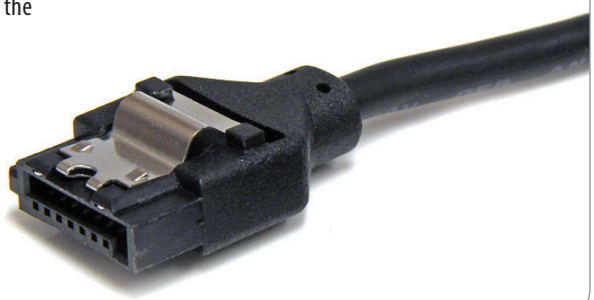
Although hard drives come in higher capacities than SSDs, the latter is quickly catching up, and prices for SSDs are always falling. If you find yourself in the market for such an upgrade, you won't be sorry with the results.

As long as your notebook has a SATA interface, you should be able to swap your mechanical hard drive for an SSD.



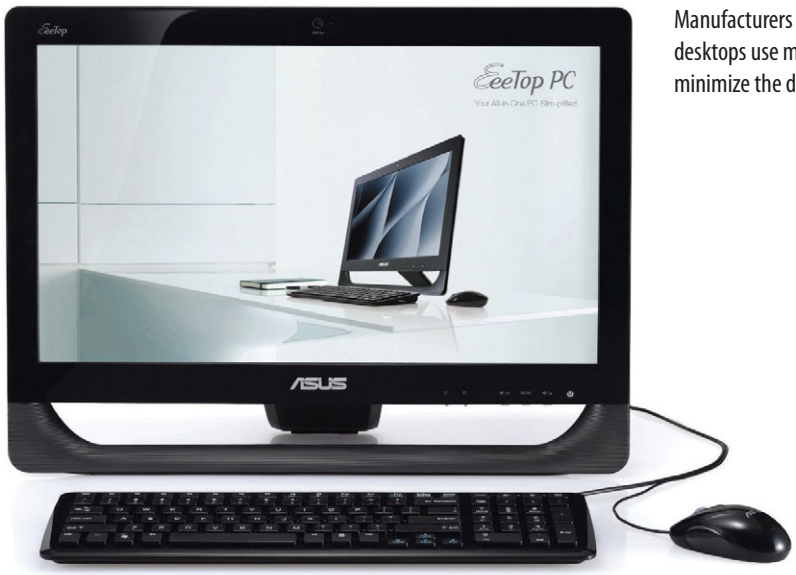
Here's what a naked SSD looks like. The memory chips are on the right side of the SSD in this image, and the interface is on the left.

SATA 3 cables will generally be labeled as such. Often, you'll see the SATA III designation either on the plug or on the cable itself.



Tech Talk

Answers to users' most common questions about Desktop & Laptop Processors



Manufacturers of All-In-One desktops use mobile processors to minimize the device footprint.

. . . laptop processors have much less power to work with and as a result run slower, but they support more mobile features.

Q What's the difference between desktop and laptop processors?

Although desktop and laptop processors are designed for their respective devices, compact desktop PCs and AIO (All-In-One) PCs often use laptop processors, and some large desktop replacement laptops use desktop processors. The biggest difference between the two is that laptop processors have much less power to work with and as a result run slower, but they support more mobile features. For example, the Intel Core i7-2760QM laptop processor and the Intel Core i7-2600K desktop processor are both quad-core chips, but the former has a 2.4GHz clock speed compared to the latter's 3.4GHz core clock. The laptop variant also operates with a 45-watt TDP (thermal design power; the maximum amount of power the device will need to be able to support the processor). The desktop variant has a 95-watt TDP.

Q What features do laptop processors have that desktop processors don't?

In the case of the desktop and laptop processors we contrasted above, the laptop variant supports Intel's (WiDi) Wireless Display technology, which lets you wirelessly transmit photos, videos, and Web to your TV for viewing (requires Intel WiDi TV adapter). Some other technologies exclusive to mobile processors include anti-theft features that enable you to remotely disable your notebook if it is stolen and support for 4G WiMAX, which lets your laptop connect to a citywide wireless network for Web access. Laptop processors also tend to have much more aggressive power-saving technologies.

Q What can desktop processors do that laptop processors can't?

Because they have much higher thermal tolerances, desktop processors can support higher clock speeds and more discrete cores. Six- and even eight-core processors are available on desktops, whereas quad-core processors are still the peak in laptop performance. Desktop processors are also much more tolerant of overclocking, or raising the core clock of the processor so that it crunches

WiDi, Intel's Wireless Display technology, lets you display your laptop content on your TV.

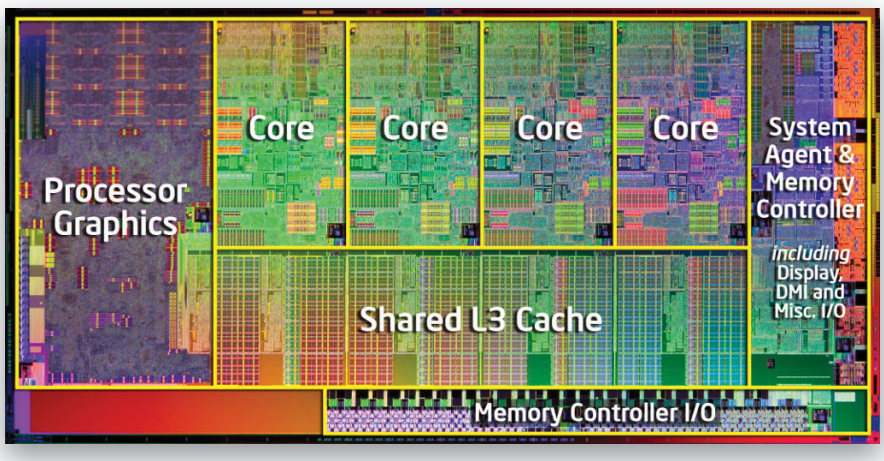
numbers that much faster. That said, overclocking a processor entails completely disregarding the rated TDP, so extra attention must be paid to keeping the processor cool.

Q Desktop and laptop processors both have integrated graphics, right?

True, graphics processors have begun appearing in processors in recent years. Laptops in particular benefit from this configuration because separate graphics chips of older laptops require dedicated cooling and power, which adds to the battery burden and tends to contribute to the laptop's overall bulk. Ultrabooks, the new wave of super-thin and portable laptops, can still be used for light gaming thanks to graphics integrated into the processor. Desktop processors with integrated graphics processors can also run without discrete graphics cards or chips on the motherboard. One of the biggest advantages for desktops, at least with regard to Intel's latest desktop processors, is their support for Quick Sync, which harnesses the power of the processor's integrated graphics processor to transcode video. This can make a huge difference in the amount of time it takes to prep videos for YouTube, Facebook, or your smartphone, tablet, and home network. Incidentally, many of Intel's latest notebook processors also support Quick Sync.

Q Can I upgrade my desktop or laptop processor?

The short answer is yes, for both, but laptops are much more difficult to upgrade. On desktops, as long as the processor fits into the motherboard's CPU socket, and the motherboard supports the processor, then you can upgrade with little fuss and virtually no Windows-related tweaks. The same CPU socket and laptop motherboard requirements exist for mobile processors, but just getting access to the processor will often void your warranty and require detailed instructions for your particular laptop. It's generally not advisable to upgrade your laptop processor unless you're very comfortable working with the hardware. ❙

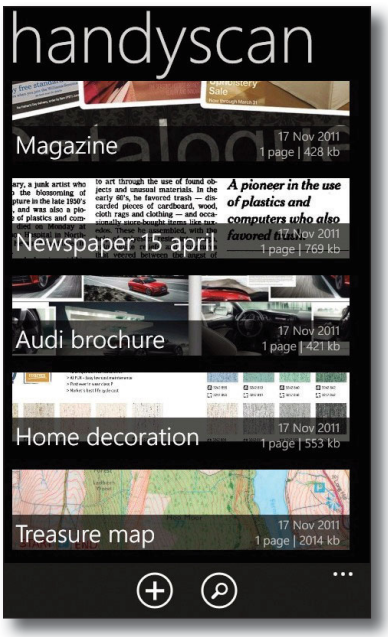


In this map of a recent Intel processor, the rectangle on the left is the integrated graphics processor.

Mobile Marketplace

Business Apps *For Android & Windows Phone 7*

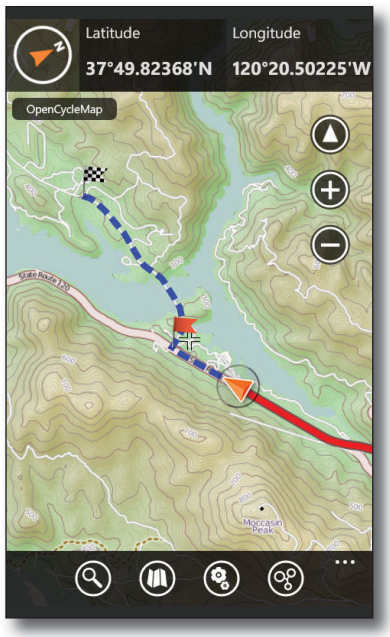
Some powerful business tools are floating in the sea of smartphone apps. Each month, we'll highlight some of the best ones for Windows 7 and Android platform users. (Unless otherwise noted, Windows Phone 7 apps are available in the Windows Phone Marketplace, and you'll find Android apps in the Android Market).



Handyscan

Windows Phone 7

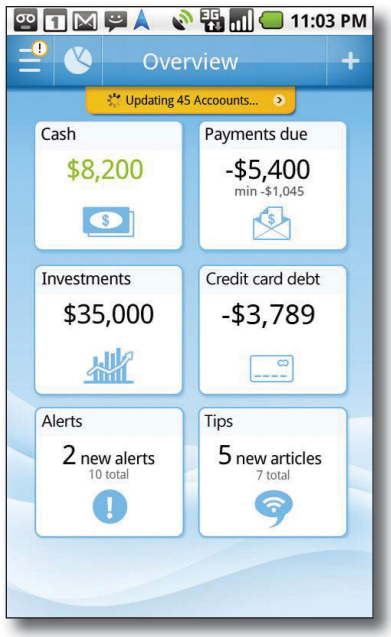
Handyscan ($2.99) is a mobile document scanner that uses your phone's camera to save images of text. Handyscan is capable of making digital records of all types of documents, including receipts, contracts, comics, class lessons, magazine and newspaper articles, photos, notes, business cards, brochures, signatures, invoices, and more. This version also lets you export any document to PDF (Portable Document Format). Once you've saved a document, you can send it as an email, store it in the cloud using SkyDrive or Dropbox, add your own text to fill out forms, crop a scanned image, and shift perspective for offset images.



Outdoor Navigation

Android | Windows Phone 7

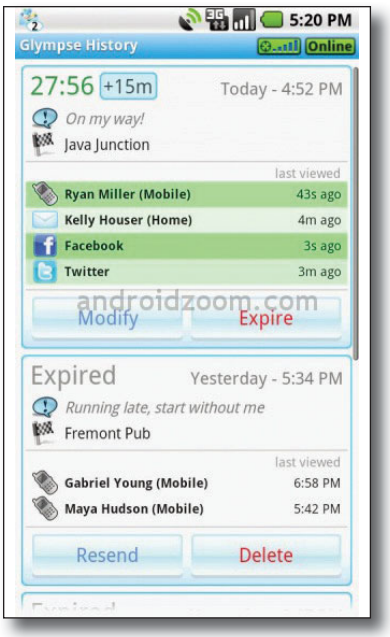
Having GPS in your car is great for getting directions and recovering your bearings, but when you're out of your vehicle, Outdoor Navigation ($4.99) steps in and shows you the way. Utilizing your phone's GPS radio and digital compass (Mango devices for WP7), this app displays online streets, satellite imagery, and topographic maps, and you can also use this application to record routes, share your tracks and points of interest, plan routes, and enjoy 40 selectable trip computer tools with multiple layout options to make your journey fun and easy.



Pageonce Money & Bills

Android | Windows Phone 7

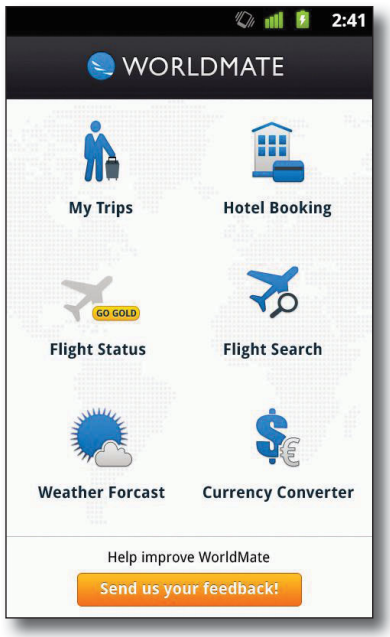
With Pageonce Money & Bills (free), you can quickly and securely track your accounts and submit payments using your smartphone. You can also get real-time alerts and notifications to keep you on schedule to avoid penalties and late fees. Other features include the ability to view and track detailed bill and account statements, your investment portfolio, frequent flyer miles and rewards, remaining cellular plan minutes and data usage, and more. Even if you already manage your accounts on your phone, this app brings them all together for your financing convenience.



Glympse

Android | Windows Phone 7

Location-based services can be controversial, especially with privacy advocates. But with Glympse (free), you can share your current location and allow only those you trust to keep track of your movements for specified amount of time. For instance, prior to driving home from work under the threat of inclement weather, just send your spouse a Glympse via email, SMS (Short Message Service), Facebook, or Twitter, and then he or she will be able to track your progress in real time until the time limit expires. The Glympse recipient just needs Web access to view the sender's GPS-based position on a map.

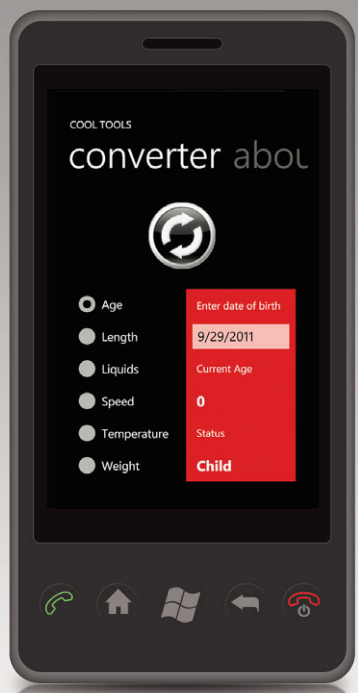


WorldMate

Android

Smartphones are handy tools for travelers, but WorldMate (free) transforms them into utterly invaluable road companions. This mobile travel app lets users plan, book, and manage trips by providing access to various booking resources. For instance, you can get hotel rooms, car rentals, flights, tickets to events, and more. You can also use WorldMate to manage your itinerary, view five-day weather forecasts, and look up flight information. With built-in Google Maps integration, you'll always know where you need to be, and the Travel Widget lets you put your itinerary highlights right on your Home screen.

App Of The Month



Cool Tools

Windows Phone 7

Your smartphone is really useful, but we'd be fibbing if we said that it lacks nothing. Cool Tools (free), from MDR Applications, is a collection of handy utilities that add functionality to your WP7 device. There's a stopwatch that lets you record independent lap times, a countdown timer with alarm, steady or strobing flashlight, full-screen ruler, accelerometer, and a sound check utility to test and adjust the volume levels of ringtones, music, and movies. There's also a conversion utility that lets you determine a person's age by inputting a birthdate, as well as convert lengths, liquids, speeds, temperatures, and weights.

A Slice Of Apple

Mac Tips & Tricks

If you're like many PC users, you have one or more Macs in your home or office. Here are some tips to help you work faster and have a little more fun on your Mac. This month we'll look at some of Mac OS X Lion's security features.

Mac OS X has built-in antivirus and malware protection, but there are other features you might want to turn on, depending on your desired level of privacy and security.

Check For Updates Daily

Mac OS X updates usually fix bugs and other problems, but they also respond to security issues and new threats. By default, OS X checks for updates weekly, but that means if a new threat arises, you might be without the security update for a week. For a little extra protection, check for these updates daily.

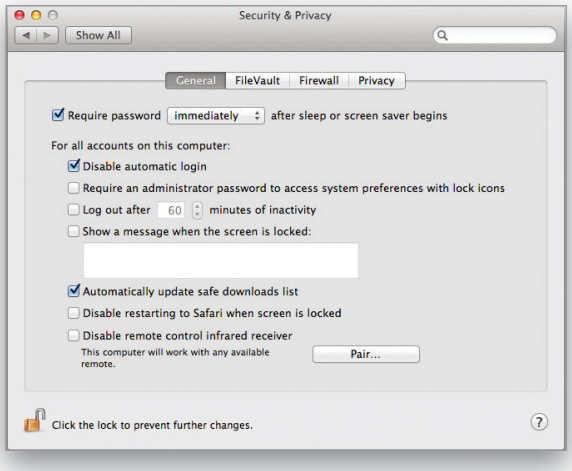
Click the Apple icon on the main menu bar. Select System Preferences and under System, click Software Update. If it's not checked, check the box next to Check For Updates and then select Daily from the drop-down list.

Set Auto Update to check for updates daily.

Lock Your Mac When You're Not Around

As an extra measure of security, you can lock your Mac when you're away for a while and require a password when the Mac starts up.

Click the Apple icon on the main menu bar. Select System Preferences and then click the Security and Privacy icon under Personal, bringing up the Security and Privacy preferences window. Check the box next



Under Security & Privacy, you can set your Mac to prompt you for a password when it starts up.

Use Password Assistant To Create Strong Passwords

Are you having trouble coming up with your own passwords? Are you unsure if the ones you have are strong enough? Mac OS X Lion's Password Assistant can help you.

Click the Apple icon on the main menu bar. Select System Preferences. Under System, click Users and Groups. Click the Plus sign as if you're going to create a new account, bringing up the New Account dialog box. Click the Key icon next to the Password field to bring up Password Assistant. (If you mouse over it, you'll see it says Password Assistant.)

to Require A Password. . . After Sleep Or Screen Saver Begins. There's a drop-down list between "password" and "after." You can adjust how long after the screen saver starts before a password is required. (Don't forget to turn on your screen saver, if you haven't already.) Check the box next to Disable Automatic Logins to require an account password at startup. If this option is grayed out, click the lock on the bottom left of the preferences window to unlock this option.

Encrypt Your Entire Hard Drive With FileVault

If you're seriously concerned about privacy or you work with a lot of confidential files on your Mac, you might want to consider using FileVault. FileVault encrypts your entire hard drive, allowing file access only to users with the right password or access key. An access key is generated when you set up FileVault.

To turn on FileVault, return to the Privacy & Security preferences window. Click the FileVault tab and then click the button to Turn On FileVault. (If it's grayed out, unlock the option by clicking on the lock icon in the bottom left of the preferences window.)

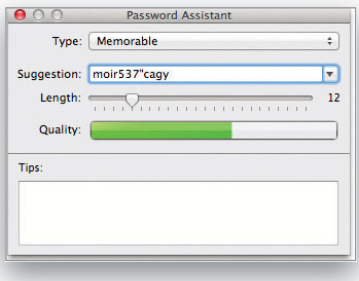
Be very careful about using FileVault. As the warning clearly states, if you lose your password or the access key, your drive will be inaccessible.

Use FileVault to encrypt your entire drive. Don't forget your password.

Securely Delete Files From Your Trash

Emptying your trash doesn't actually remove the files from your system: It just marks them as deleted so another file can overwrite the space. It might be a long time before the system overwrites that file, so, in theory, someone could undelete the file.

If you want to make sure the file you delete is wiped from your Mac, you'll want to securely empty your trash bin. It's pretty easy. Click your trash bin. This changes the focus of your main menu bar to Finder.



Password Assistant helps you create strong passwords.

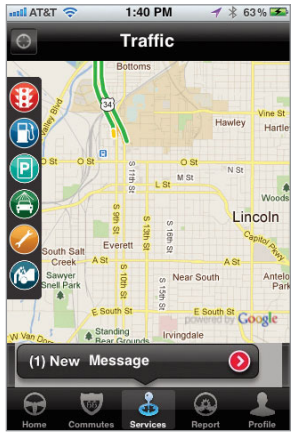
Fresh Fruit

Great Business Apps For Your iPad/iPod/iPhone

There's no shortage of impressive applications—some of them free—for Apple's popular family of mobile devices, and many of them are perfect for the home office worker or entrepreneur. Here are our favorite business-related mobile apps for the month. (Unless otherwise indicated, see the Apple App Store to purchase these apps.)

Car Butler

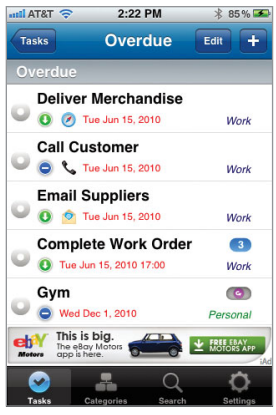
iPad | iPod touch | iPhone



Fancy Auto Car Butler is a free app that provides a ton of handy info, based on your location. Use it to mark your car's location when parking far from your destination; check traffic; find nearby gas stations; calculate your commute time; check the weather; and document that fender bender. If you need something while in (but not driving) your car, check Car Butler: It may well have exactly what you need.

List n Do

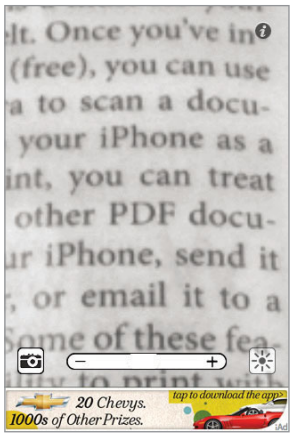
iPad | iPod touch | iPhone



For many people, the paper to-do list has long since given way to a digital one. If you're planning to join the digital to-do list club, check out List n Do ($2.99), which offers several ways to manage your tasks. The app uses your iPhone's built-in alarm to alert you to deadlines for time-sensitive tasks and has support for synchronizing with other popular to-do services, including the well-known Toodledo.com and Google Tasks. Try the free List n Do Lite app to see if you're ready to take your to-do list digital.

Magnifying Glass With Light

iPod touch iPhone



This free app comes in handy when you find yourself in a dimly lit restaurant, squinting at tiny print on your menu. Point your iPhone's camera at the text, move the on-screen slider, and you'll have large, easy-to-read text in no time. The text probably won't fit onto your screen (now that you've magnified it), but you can read easily by moving the iPhone over your menu. The app can also make use of the LED (light-emitting diode) in your iPhone 4 or 4S to illuminate the text. (The iPhone 3G supports the app but doesn't have an LED.)

Yellow Pages

iPad iPod touch iPhone

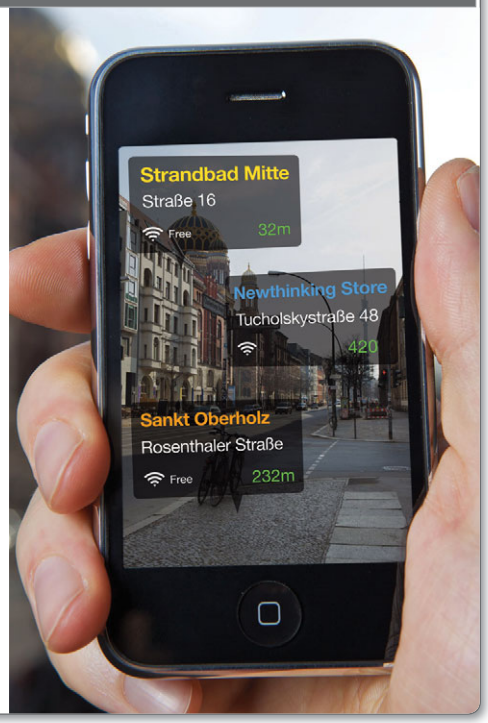
With Yellow Pages, finding contact info for local businesses is a snap—well, a tap. Actually, a voice command will do the trick. That's right: Tap the Microphone button and you can speak your keyword. Within seconds, you'll see locations near you (on a map and in a list). From there, you can easily get contact information and (if you have a supported navigation app installed) turn-by-turn directions. The app also offers reservation options for some restaurants and movie show times.

Noteworthy App Of The Month

WorkSnug

iPhone iPod touch

Augmented reality applications (which overlay live images of your surroundings with helpful information) are just catching on. WorkSnug (free) is a good example of the sorts of uses for augmented reality: Point your phone in front of you, and WorkSnug will provide information about workspaces nearby. They may be co-working locations, or they may be simply good places to sit and get work done. (They may also be businesses helpful to workers, such as printers and shipping services.)



Inkjet printers

Today's inkjet printers are capable of producing everything from production-quality prints to consumer-grade images and text, quickly, quietly, and affordably. As a result, however, there's a world of difference among them when it comes to features and price. Keep the following in mind when shopping for a new inkjet printer.

Consumable Conundrum

The up-front cost of an inkjet printer might be your primary purchasing consideration, but don't forget the long-term expenses you will incur to keep the printer churning out pages. Thankfully, many printer manufacturers list the number of pages you can expect to get out of the respective color and black cartridges. To determine the cost per page, simply divide the ink cartridge cost by the number of pages the printer will print per color and black cartridge.

Inkjets Know Photos

Image quality is often a top priority, but if photo printing is important to you, select a photo-oriented printer to get the best results. Conversely, avoiding a photo printer can lower your cost per color page, which will definitely add up over time.

Networking Necessities

Your home or office network is the lifeblood of your PC-based work and play, so it follows that the computers on your network should all have access to the printer, either wired or wirelessly. Most inkjet printers offer some form of connectivity, either built-in or via an optional wireless accessory. Some printers take it a step further and let you email documents and photos from your smartphone while you're out of the office, and others still offer direct printing from an iPad or iPhone on your wireless network.

The Extras

Extra features can add functionality, ease everyday use, save energy, and more. Many inkjets currently offer touch-sensitive displays, ENERGY STAR qualifications, scanning and copying capabilities, and even smartphone apps.

What follows is a series of inkjet printers suitable for home or business use along with pricing and a few highlighted features. Just turn the page to get the most printer for your money.

$129.99 (ESP)
www.brother-usa.com

Brother MFC-J625DW

This compact AIO (all-in-one) makes it easy to print, copy, scan, and fax. Built for small or home office environments, the MFC-J625DW features 802.11b/g/n wireless networking, auto duplex (2-sided) printing, and a 20-page document feeder for unattended fax, copy, and scan jobs. The 1.9-inch touchscreen color LCD makes using it a cinch, and it's capable of 12ppm (pages per minute) black and 10ppm color speeds.

$79.99
www.usa.canon.com

Canon PIXMA MX360

The PIXMA MX360 Inkjet Office All-In-One utilizes a 30-sheet auto document feeder for copying, scanning, and faxing at a small and home office pace. Dual Color Gamut Processing Technology enables your copies to shine as brightly as the originals. Other features include support for password-protected PDFs, borderless printing, PictBridge, optional Bluetooth, and Easy-WebPrint EX, which ensures you're only printing what you want from the Web.

$999.99
www.usa.canon.com

Canon PIXMA PRO-1

Canon's PIXMA PRO-1 is the right tool for the job for professional photographers. This printer uses a 12 LUCIA pigment ink system to deliver more lifelike images than ever. The printer also utilizes ink tanks that are 2.5 times larger than conventional ink tanks. Other features include built-in Ethernet networking and support for two-way paper feeding and professional photo printing on a variety of photo paper types.

$179.99
www.dell.com

Dell V313W All-In-One Printer

The Dell V313W wireless AIO is a small business workhorse capable of producing professional-looking documents and borderless photos, as well scanned and copied documents and images. Dell also includes some nice software, including optical character recognition software, Dell Ink Management software, and PictBridge software, which lets you print images from your camera without a PC. The LCD also makes using this printer simple.

$129.99
www.epson.com

Epson WorkForce 545 All-In-One-Printer

The WorkForce 545 brings your home office fast print speeds plus all the tools you need to take on any project. It boasts a 250-sheet paper tray and 30-page ADF (automatic document feeder). And, you can save on ink with available Extra High-capacity ink cartridges. The WorkForce 545 includes built-in wired and wireless networking, or you can use Epson Connect to print from popular mobile devices.

EPSON®

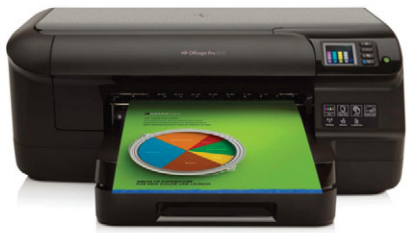
$199.99
www.epson.com

Epson WorkForce 845 All-In-One-Printer

The WorkForce 845 makes automatic high-speed two-sided printing, copying, scanning, and faxing easy using its 500-sheet paper capacity. Save on ink with the included Extra High-capacity ink cartridges. Share your WorkForce 845 using built-in wired and wireless networking, or use Epson Connect to print from popular mobile devices.

EPSON®

$149.99
www.hp.com



HP Officejet Pro 8100 ePrinter

This printer is capable of producing vivid images and quality documents for your home office or small business. Features include wireless and wired networking, automatic two-sided printing, HP inks that resist fading and smearing, speeds up to 20ppm black and 16ppm color, and HP ePrint, which lets you print from almost anywhere via the Web.

hp

$199.99
www.kodak.com

KODAK OFFICE HERO 6.1 All-In-One Printer

This AIO from KODAK can be a real lifesaver for small and home office users; its inks are reasonably priced, and it can handle all your copy, scan, and fax jobs quickly and wirelessly. This Google Cloud Print- and KODAK Email Print-ready printer lets you send emails and attachments to the printer as print jobs, right from your mobile device.

Kodak

$149.99
www.lexmark.com

Lexmark S515

The Lexmark S515 makes it easy to get what you need fuss free; it offers multiple one-touch shortcuts, support for Ethernet and wireless networking, a 35-sheet automatic document feeder, optional high-yield ink cartridges, and a 2.4-inch color LCD that makes more involved jobs a snap. Another feature we like is the support for automatic two-sided printing, which can slash paper consumption by half.

LEXMARK™

$10,995
www.primeralabel.com

Primera Technology CX1000 Color Label Printer

The CX1000 is a laser printer, but it's here because with it you can make professional-looking labels in your home or small office. The CX1000 lets you import your label files into the included PTPrint Software, specify how many you need, and press GO. Features include 2,400 dpi (dots per inch) print quality and precise color control, so you get the best results.

PRIMERA TECHNOLOGY, INC.

$279
www.ricoh-usa.com

RICOH Aficio GX e3350N

The RICOH Aficio GX e3350N combines the affordability of an inkjet with the speed and reliability of a laser. With GelSprinter technology, this printer uses quick-drying gel inks that produce vivid images. Other features include double-sided printing, a rapid 35-second warm-up time, a 250-sheet paper tray, ENERGY STAR Version 1.1 compliance, individual cartridges, and support for up to 3,600 x 1,200 dpi equivalent resolution.

RICOH

$699
www.xerox.com

Xerox ColorQube 8570

Xerox's cartridge-free solid ink printer delivers professional results for small and home office users, but does so without unnecessary waste. Bundled GreenPrint software lets users print only the pages they want. Other features include up to 2,400 FinePoint print resolution, up to 40ppm color and black-and-white prints, two-sided printing, and a paper tray that supports 625 sheets (8570/N, 8570/DN) and 1,150 sheets (8570/DT).

XEROX®

When a computer breaks down, everyone looks to you for the solution.

That's why you look to *Smart Computing*. Each issue is packed with troubleshooting information that will help you spot the source of the problem and get your system humming again. Our plain-English tutorials and large, clear pictures give you the confidence and the knowledge you need when repairing an ailing PC. And once your computer is running again, *Smart Computing*'s software and hardware maintenance tips will help you keep it that way. Plus, you'll find info on all the new products you'll need for your home and office.

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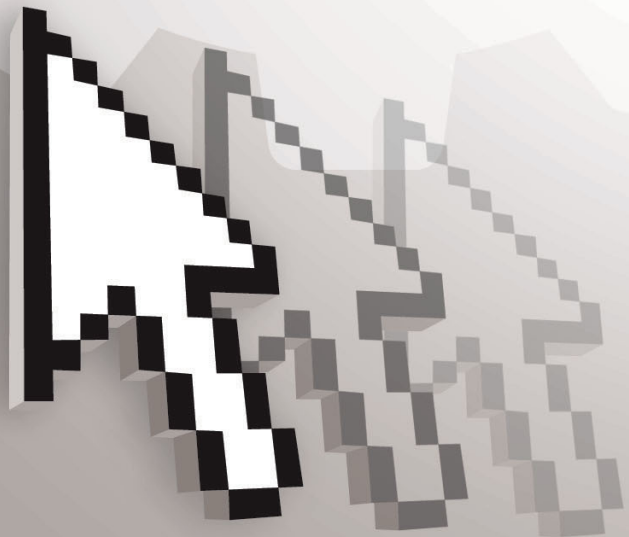
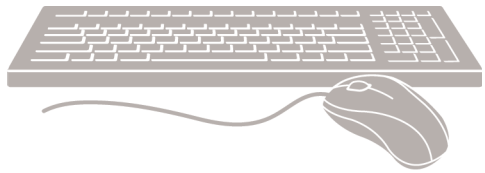
Keyboards & mice

The keyboard and mouse have a dramatic impact on your moment-to-moment computing comfort. Keyboards that click too loudly, stick on certain letters, and force your wrists into orthopedic surgery-inducing pretzels quickly become barriers to your enjoyment and productivity. Likewise, a mouse with the response time of a tortoise, that requires constant cleaning and eats batteries faster than you can eat breakfast, will really cramp your computing style. Here are a few things to look for when upgrading your input devices.





Master Your Mouse

The type of mouse you require is often a direct reflection of how you spend your time on your computer. For example, frequent travelers tend to favor compact mice, gamers want highly sensitive laser mice with programmable buttons, and those who spend a lot of time at their PCs need an ergonomic mouse. Other must-have features are more user-specific, such as left-handed or ambidextrous mice for lefties or mice with artistic designs for artsy types.

Be The King Of Your Keyboard

It pays to be no less particular about your keyboard. All keyboards are one of three types: mechanical, membrane, or rubber dome. Mechanical keyboards generally offer more tactile feedback, while membrane and rubber dome types tend to be quieter. Popular features include backlit keys, multimedia buttons, programmable keys, USB or PS/2 interfaces, wired, wireless, and ergonomic key layouts.

Consider A Twofer

You can also get some unique benefits when buying a keyboard and mouse combo. For instance, a wireless combo often utilizes a single wireless receiver. Style-conscious users will also appreciate that keyboard and mouse combos tend to match. You can also save money by opting for a combo.

In the world of computing, the keyboard and mouse aren't as glamorous as the processor or monitor, but selecting the right pair can go a long way toward improving your overall experience.

$129.98
www.logitech.com

Logitech Wireless Solar Keyboard K750 & Marathon Mouse M705 Bundle

Logitech is of the opinion that your keyboard and mouse should be as energy efficient as a hybrid or a CFL (compact fluorescent lamp) light bulb. The Wireless Solar Keyboard K750 gets the juice it needs from light sources, and the Marathon Mouse M705 has an extensive three-year battery life. Without a doubt, this is one of the greenest combos you can buy.

Logitech

$39.99
www.rosewill.com

Rosewill RKM-800RF 2.4 GHz Cordless Slim Keyboard And Mouse Combo

Rosewill's affordable RKM-800RF combo uses advanced 2.4GHz wireless technology to let you use it up to 10 meters away from your PC. The 800dpi (dots per inch) optical mouse is accurate and sleek. The keyboard also features a slim profile and a metal back plate to help reinforce the unit.

Rosewill®

$59.99
www.avsgear.com

AVS Gear Zippy BT-637

The Zippy BT-637 is a wireless keyboard that supports Bluetooth 1.0 and 2.0 and can quickly switch among up to six devices. The integrated touchpad acts as your mouse, and it also features left and right mouse buttons. Other features include six function keys, 10-meter wireless range, and a stylish aluminum palm rest and keyboard frame.

AVS GEAR

$19.99
www.aziocorp.com

AZiO Slim Profile USB Keyboard KB503U

Compact keyboards are great for travelers and those with cramped workspaces, but the Slim Profile KB503U from AZiO also has a very classy look that appeals to the style-conscious among us. Features include chiclet-style keys, eight hotkeys, and rubber membrane mechanics, which make the keyboard quiet and comfortable for extended typing sessions.

AZiO®

$30.95
www.cherrycorp.com

CHERRY Stream XT Corded Multimedia Keyboard (G85-23100EU)

Quality, ergonomics, functionality, style, and value are all important considerations for a keyboard, and CHERRY delivers all that and more with the Stream XT Corded Multimedia Keyboard. With a thickness of just over 0.7 inches, this keyboard is suitable for any workspace. Other features include water-resistant keys, USB, PS/2 adapter, and media player hotkeys.

CHERRY

$129
www.daskeyboard.com

Das Keyboard Model S Professional

German engineering isn't something you typically expect from PC peripherals, but Das Keyboard's Model S Professional was built with a minimalist aesthetic and relies on mechanical gold-plated key switches that produce a highly tactile feel and an audible click response. According to Das Keyboard, the Model S is in the same class as the Cadillac of clicky keyboards, the IBM Model M.

daskeyboard

$11.99
www.gigabyte.us

GIGABYTE Multimedia Ultra-slim Profile Keyboard GK-K6150

The GIGABYTE Multimedia Ultra-slim Profile Keyboard GK-K6150 is designed to simulate the scissors switch commonly found in notebook keyboards, making it quiet and responsive, but without the cramped layout and mobility restrictions. Other features include laser-engraved key labels and nine hotkeys for your media playback and more.

GIGABYTE™

$39.99
www.grandtec.com

Grandtec USA GlowType Keyboard GLW-1000

If you ask Grandtec USA what's better than a virtually indestructible keyboard, it will tell you a virtually indestructible keyboard that glows in the dark. This flexible silicone keyboard sheds light on your late-night computing sessions, is spill proof, has an illumination on/off switch, and Windows hotkeys to make your life easier.

GRANDTEC USA

$49.95
www.microsoft.com

Microsoft Natural Ergonomic Keyboard 4000

Microsoft's latest Natural Ergonomic Keyboard, the 4000, makes your computing comfort its No. 1 priority. Innovative design features include a plush palm rest, a curved key bed, ergonomic arc, and reversed slope. Other extras include customizable hotkeys and a handy Zoom Slider, which lets you zoom in and out with the flip of a switch.

Microsoft

$12.99
www.mypixxo.com

Pixxo USB Wired Slim Keyboard KM-1881U

According to Pixxo, a keyboard can be affordable and comfortable. The KM-1881U utilizes enhanced membrane tactile key switches, which are responsive and quiet. The slim keyboard includes three ACPI (Advanced Configuration and Power Interface; a power management specification for PCs) power management keys, 15 hotkeys for multimedia and more, durable laser-printed key labels, and a switch reliability rating of between 5 and 10 million presses.

Pixxo

$99.99
www.rosewill.com

Rosewill Mechanical Keyboard RK-9000BL

Rosewill's RK-9000 keyboard uses Cherry Black Switches, which produce consistent force throughout the downward keystroke. The keyboard is built to last with 50 million life cycle-rated switches and a red metal inner chassis. N-Key rollover lets you press 104 keys simultaneously without jamming (PS/2 mode), and gold plated USB and PS/2 connector leave your connection options wide open.

Rosewill

$79.99
www.sealshield.com

Seal Shield Seal Smart Keyboard S103R

The Seal Smart Keyboard S103R was designed to last. It is certified to international waterproof standard IP-68, is fully dishwasher safe, and features antimicrobial protection against any microscopic unpleasantness that can qualify your keyboard as sentient against your wishes. This keyboard also has an integrated Smart Card Reader, ergonomic wrist rest, laser-etched keys, and a gold-plated USB connector.

SEAL SHIELD™

$63.99
www.targus.com

Targus Bluetooth Wireless Keyboard For Tablets AKB33US

This wireless keyboard works well with any device that supports Bluetooth, but its razor-thin profile makes it particularly useful for travelers. It features integrated tilt, tactile feedback for consistent and accurate typing, and a built-in battery that lasts up to seven months on a single charge. Supported platforms include iOS, Windows, and Android.

Targus

$420
www.ute.com

Unitech POS Keyboard KP3700-T2UBE

The KP3700 POS keyboard features an integrated magnetic stripe reader and a compact footprint that makes it ideal for almost any location. It's also built to resist damage from spilled liquids. There are 92 programmable keys, 88 of which are relegendable, which means you can put labels under plastic caps to make using the programmed functions easier for anyone.

unitech

$29.99
www.adesso.com

Adesso Wireless Mini Mouse S10

The Adesso Wireless Mini Mouse S10 is a compact and light mouse that relies on 2.4GHz RF (radio frequency) wireless technology to provide up to 30 feet of range and 32 channels to avoid interference. You can also switch between 500 and 1,000dpi optical sensitivities to maintain optimal response on virtually any surface.

ADESSO

$59.99
www.eclipsetouch.com

Eclipse Touchmouse

This stylish low-profile mouse has a highly sensitive 1,600dpi laser that gives you the ultimate freedom of surface choice. You can also avoid wire clutter with built-in Bluetooth 2.0 technology. Other features include a four-way touchscroll module that lets you navigate the Web and large documents and images by just swiping your finger across its surface.

eclipse

$69.99
www.fellowes.com

Fellowes Microban Cordless 5-Button Optical Mouse 98912

Your PC mouse shouldn't have fur. Ever. To make sure, Fellowes imbues this wireless mouse with Microban anti-microbial protection. Other features include up to 6 feet of wireless range, extended battery life, an optical sensor for use on your choice of mousing surfaces, and five programmable buttons.

Fellowes

$14.99
www.gigabyte.us

GIGABYTE Aire M1

The Aire M1 is a compact notebook mouse that comes with a retractable cord so you can take it wherever you go with ease. The cord is durable enough to withstand 4,000 pulls, and thanks to its USB connection, it doesn't require batteries to function. There's a two-year warranty on this mouse, and it's available in glossy blue or shiny black.

GIGABYTE™

$99
www.goldtouch.com

Goldtouch Evoluent Right-Handed VerticalMouse 4

This is what a mouse would look like if Charles Darwin had any say. Designed to support your hand and arm in a neutral position, the VerticalMouse 4 can ease arm and wrist strain. This mouse was built for those who spend a lot of time at a PC, featuring a 2,200dpi, and five programmable buttons.

Goldtouch
Productivity through Prevention™

$79.99
www.gyration.com

Gyration Air Mouse Elite

Gyration's Air Mouse Elite lets you use it on a surface or in the air, making it ideal for use in the living room, boardroom, classroom, or at your PC. Wireless RF technology lets you use the Air Mouse Elite at a distance of up to 100 feet, without line-of-sight. It also has three programmable buttons for your convenience.

Gyration

$34.95
www.iogear.com

IOGEAR Phaser GME422RW6

The Phaser is a unique input device that combines a traditional mouse with an omnidirectional scroll ball for presenting and a built-in laser to help you drive the point home in any situation. The 2.4GHz wireless Phaser has a 30 foot range, a cradle for recharging the included AA rechargeable batteries, and the three-year warranty speaks volumes for its overall reliability.

IOGEAR®

$129.99
www.kensington.com

Kensington SlimBlade Trackball

The Kensington SlimBlade Trackball makes your comfort and productivity its No. 1 goal. The low-profile design, four programmable buttons, and attractive appearance make it suitable for a variety of applications and people. This trackball uses a pair of advanced laser sensors and a large ball to help you put the cursor exactly where you want it.

Kensington

$29.99
www.macally.com

Macally mGlide

This slim and compact wireless mouse is ideal for road warriors. It uses 2.4GHz wireless technology to connect to a PC, notebook, or Mac, and an internal compartment lets you store the USB wireless module when you're ready to go. The mouse uses optical technology, so you can use it on a variety of surfaces, and the scroll wheel eases your navigation.

macally

$49.95
www.smartfishtechnologies.com

Smartfish Whirl Mini Laser Mouse

The Smartfish Whirl Mini Laser Mouse features the unique ErgoMotion pivot system, which makes it the only mouse that can compete in a slalom. It lets you rock the mouse forward and back and side to side to let you hold it in a more natural position without losing contact with the mousing surface. Comfort is key, here.

Smartfish

Tips & Tricks

Keyboard Shortcuts

Copy (CTRL-C)

Cut (CTRL-X)

Paste (CTRL-V)

Print (CTRL-P)

Save (CTRL-S)

If you're looking for a way to be more efficient at work, keyboard shortcuts should be at the top of your list. Here, we'll cover a variety of commonly used keyboard shortcuts.

Copy (CTRL-C)

This shortcut is perfect when you want to copy data between two applications because CTRL-C will place the text you highlight into the Windows' Clipboard without deleting it from the existing location.

Cut (CTRL-X)

CTRL-X is the shortcut you'll want to use when you want to delete the existing text or numbers from one section and place it into another section.

Paste (CTRL-V)

A companion to both Copy and Cut shortcuts, CTRL-V is the keyboard shortcut you'll press once you've open the program where you

want to place the content that you've Copy or Cut.

Print (CTRL-P)

CTRL-P is the nearly universal keyboard shortcut for the Print command within an application.

Save (CTRL-S)

By pressing CTRL-S, you can save without moving your mouse up to the Save button or looking for the Save command within the menu structure.

Select All (CTRL-A)

Have a big section of text that you need to highlight and copy? Press CTRL-A and all of the characters on the screen will be highlighted for you.

Open (CTRL-O)

CTRL-O is a big time saver when the Open option is hidden within the menu of an application.

Minimize All Windows (WIN-M)

Need to open a file or click a shortcut that's located on your Desktop? Hold down WIN (the Windows logo key) and the M key to minimize every application you have open. This shortcut is also handy when you have multiple applications open and want to switch to another one, because you won't need to manually minimize them individually.

Search For Files & Folders (WIN-F)

This keyboard shortcut brings up the same search tool that you see if you enter a term into the Search field of Windows Explorer. The terms you enter will examine your hard drive, including the text contents and file properties for your search term.

Lock Computer (WIN-L)

Use this keyboard shortcut when you step away from your computer and want to ensure that no one uses your machine while you're gone. It will bring up a screen where you can press CTRL-ALT-DELETE and then log in with the username and password you enter when Windows starts up.

Permanently Delete A File (SHIFT-DELETE)

When you typically delete a file, it is transferred to the Recycle Bin on the Windows Desktop. But with sensitive files, you may prefer that they are permanently removed from the hard drive. To do so, select the file and press SHIFT-DELETE to remove the file without sending it to the Recycle Bin.

Select All (CTRL-A)

Open (CTRL-O)

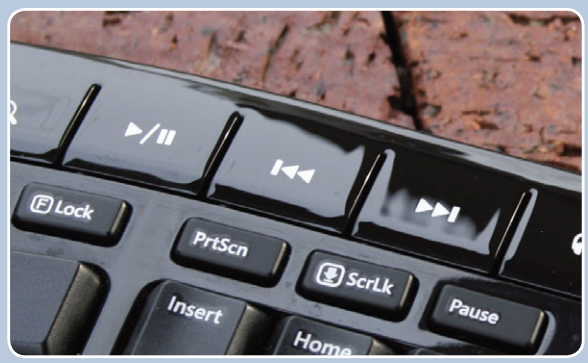
Minimize All Windows (WIN-M)

Search For Files & Folders (WIN-F)

Lock Computer (WIN-L)

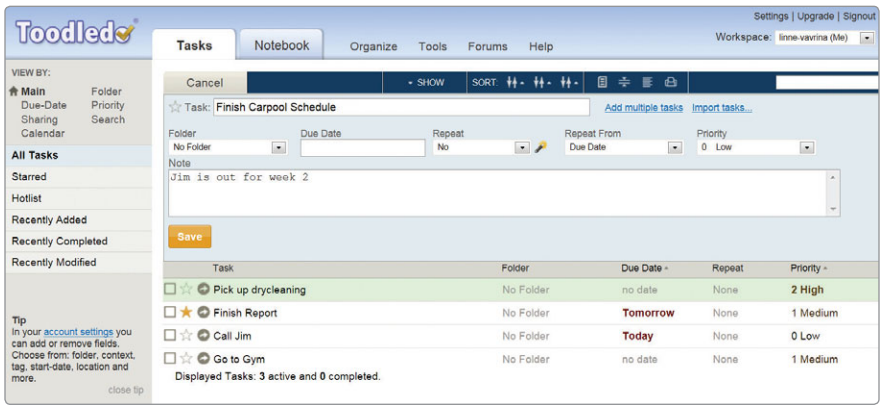
Permanently Delete A File (SHIFT-DELETE)

Media Playback



Many keyboards feature media playback controls, such as Play, Pause, and Fast Forward, to let you control the sound and video from PC.

Find It Online



Toodledo

www.toodledo.com

Do you have sticky note reminders covering your desk? Are there a million things on your to-do list? You might consider the help of a task manager. Toodledo is a free Web-based tool that prioritizes, organizes, and schedules your personal to-do lists to help increase productivity. First, sign up for an account and then begin using Toodledo to organize your lists into folders using tags and subtasks. Features include hotlists, which automatically prioritizes your tasks, and filters, which hide tasks so you can concentrate on what's most important. You can set reminders and alarms for upcoming tasks and use Toodledo's collaboration tools to share projects with others. Toodledo also offers a Pro subscription with more advanced features for $14.95 per year.

CrashMyPad

www.crashmypad.com

If you're planning a trip but don't want to pay for a pricey hotel room, check out the accommodations listed at CrashMyPad. This service lets travelers search for and book lodging with locals who might have a spare room or even an entire home to offer. The founders search for unique and affordable options and list them on this site. Travelers can enter their destination and then select a check-in/check-out date and number of guests, which returns a list of the available rooms or properties that match the criteria. Each listing has a description and photos of the space available, the cost per night, and any amenities included or attractions nearby. You can also contact the host with questions.

Quora

www.quora.com

Quora is a Q&A site that lets you ask questions and then receive answers and content from people who share your interests and who have first-hand knowledge about that particular question or field, such as real-life doctors, military veterans, screenwriters, etc. You can create an account and then build a personalized home page based on topics, questions, people, and boards you are following. Boards are collections of things you find or post. You can follow other users' boards and post anything you find on Quora or the Web to your board.

Active.com

www.active.com

Active.com is a popular online community for people to search for, learn about, register for, and participate in sports and recreational activities. From cycling events to marathons to camps and clinics, this site offers a huge directory of sports and recreational facilities, classes, events, and activities. Visitors looking to participate in local events can

search by sport, such as football, soccer, running, golf, and more, and then enter keywords, such as activity type and location, to find events nearby. The site offers information and articles on topics such as Healthy Living, Strength & Fitness, and Outdoor Adventures. There are camping guides, hiking guides, diet plans, and training schedules. The information at this site is bottomless and ready for you to explore.

RetailMeNot

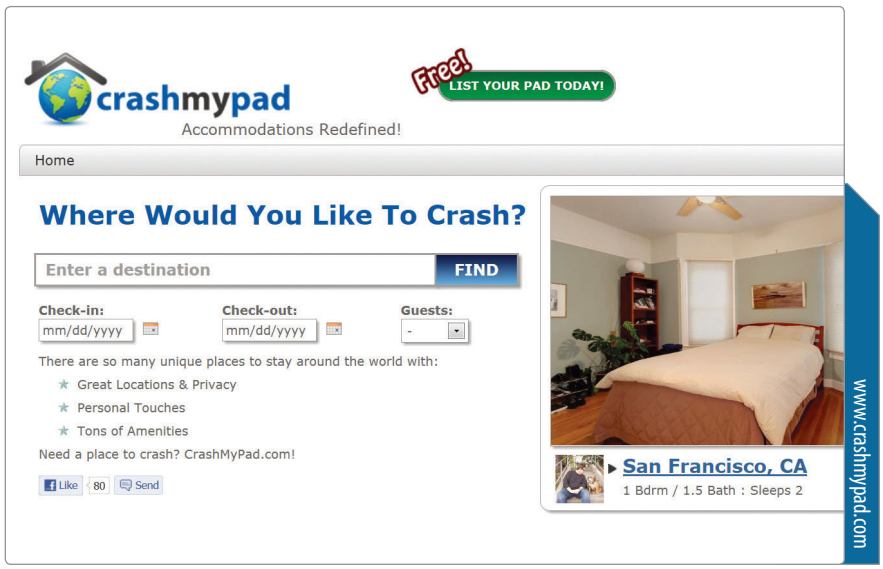
www.retailmenot.com

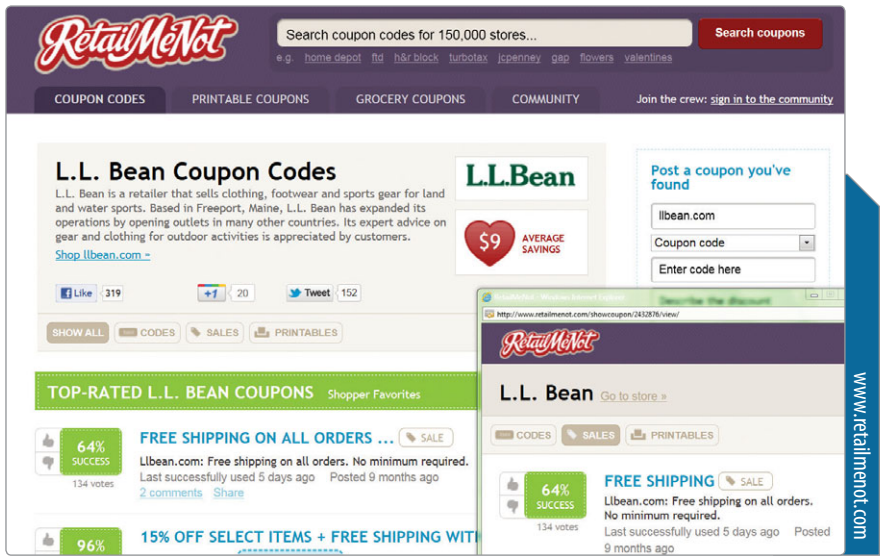
This site is a coupon clipper's dream, offering information about deals and coupons from certain merchants. Using the search bar at the top of the page, you can enter a specific merchant, such as Pizza Hut, Gap, or Teleflora, or enter a keyword, such as pizza, clothing, or flowers. Coupons and deals that are available will appear in a list. Some are coupon codes that you can enter at the online checkout, while others are printable coupons. You can also search grocery coupons and all printable coupons. If you come across a deal or discount yourself, you can post that coupon or offer to share with others. Some of the site's features may not be available until you sign up for a free account.

Storify

storify.com

With Storify, users can turn social media posts into interesting stories. You can collect photos, videos, tweets, and more and then publish them to build a compelling story. Start by creating a free account, and then add a title and a short description for your story. Next, begin adding content from social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Flicker, and more. When you search sites for content, results will appear along the right side of the page. Simply drag and drop content to your story and insert text to narrate as necessary. You can save your story as a draft to update and edit later, or publish it to Storify for others to see.





Ovation

Each month, the *Smart Computing* staff gets to work with all kinds of new computing and consumer electronics products. Here are some of the most exciting products to cross our desks.

Wireless Headset

$69.99 | Logitech | www.logitech.com

Time to cut the cords and lose the handset tethered to your ear; sometimes you just want to listen and chat in comfort. The Logitech Wireless Headset pairs with the iPad, iPhone, iPod touch, and other Bluetooth devices for listening to music, watching videos, playing online games, and making phone calls. Logitech includes laser-tuned drivers that produce rich sound, and the adjustable microphone features noise-canceling technology to reduce background noise during phone calls and FaceTime chats. When not in use, the mic flips up so it is hidden under the headband, which is also adjustable. The right side includes the power switch, mute button, volume control, and charging port, and the rechargeable battery is rated for up to six hours (USB charging cable included). The headset is lightweight and folds into a compact package, making it a good choice for travelers.

MOTOACTV

$249.99 for 8GB; $299.99 for 16GB | Motorola | www.motorola.com

We all need a little help reaching our fitness goals, and the MOTOACTV just might be the motivation you are waiting for. MOTOACTV is a lightweight (1.2oz) GPS fitness tracker and smart MP3 player all in one. Intelligent AccuSense and GPS technologies track your walking, running, and biking data, such as time, distance, pace, calories burned, and heart rate (the heart rate monitor and bike sensor are sold separately). It features a scratch-resistant, 1.6-inch touch screen that automatically adjusts to the lighting conditions for indoor and outdoor use.

The smart MP3 player stores hours' worth of music, and it even "learns" what songs motivate you during your workouts. You can import playlists from iTunes or Windows Media Player, and as if that isn't enough, MOTOACTV also has a built-in FM tuner. The device can wirelessly sync your data to the online MOTOACTV Training Portal, where you can connect with friends, manage your workout data, set goals, follow a training schedule, and monitor your progress. MOTOACTV supports Bluetooth and ANT+ wireless connectivity. Optional accessories include a sports wrist strap, sports armband, bike mount, and more.

Ovation: new computing and consumer electronics products

Commuter Series LIVE**STRONG**

$34.99 | OtterBox | www.otterbox.com/livestrong

Chances are, you've already seen the yellow wristbands and other gear that carries the Lance Armstrong Foundation's LIVE**STRONG** logo (www.livestrong.org). If you're looking for a way to help this organization (which seeks to improve the lives of the cancer community and helps people develop active, healthy lifestyles), the OtterBox Commuter Series LIVE**STRONG** case is for you. Buy the case for your iPhone 4/4S, and you'll help fund LIVE**STRONG** while protecting your phone from daily scratches and bumps.

Wireless Back-Up Camera

$149.99 | Magellan | www.magellangps.com

If you've ever backed out of your driveway wishing you had a camera attached to the back of your car, you'll love the Magellan Wireless Back-up Camera. This sturdy little camera attaches to your car via the same screws that secure your license plate. Put your car in reverse, and your Magellan Safety Series GPS navigator automatically displays live video of the area behind your car, helping you see whether your path is clear. Of course, it's also handy when you're parallel parking at the end of your drive. The camera supports RoadMate 1700, 1700-LM, 1700-MU, 9055, 9055-LM, and Pro 9165T navigators.

What You Need To Know

iPod Docks

JBL's OnBeat Xtreme is a speaker dock that connects to your iPad, iPod, or iPhone wirelessly via Bluetooth. It offers high-quality sound, as well as hands-free calling with Bluetooth phones and the ability to dock your iOS devices in either landscape or portrait orientation.

Logitech's Mini Boombox is a Bluetooth-only speaker that you can pair with any Bluetooth device.

For many of us, iPods now serve as the main source for our music, because they can store hours of our favorite tunes on a device that can fit into a pocket. An iPod speaker dock is a handy accessory for anyone who wants to listen to his iPod in situations where headphones aren't ideal, such as while working in your home office. Here, we'll take a look at what you need to consider when buying an iPod dock.

Portability

First, think about the type of places you'd like to use the iPod speaker dock. Do you want something that can play music for friends and family when you're outside, such as in the backyard or at a tailgate? If so, you'll want to look for a model that's small enough to fit in a travel bag, such as one that can fold flat, or offers a handle for carrying convenience. Some iPod speaker docks can operate on batteries, so you don't need a power outlet to listen to the sound.

Design

Those who don't plan to move the iPod speaker dock very often can look for something that fits in with the décor of the room. For example, there are many elegant models that match the furnishings of contemporary living rooms and home office styles. Sizes for iPod speaker docks vary widely—from as small as your iPod to boombox models that will require a sizable amount of desk space.

Sound Quality

Audio quality is always a subjective matter, but in general, large boombox-style speaker docks are more capable of a full sound than portable models, because there's more space for different speaker types such as tweeters (high frequency, such as treble) and woofers (low frequencies, such as bass). For example, the tabletop JBL OnBeat Xtreme ($499.95; www.jbl.com) includes JBL's Ridge tweeters and Atlas woofers, as well as computer-optimized DSP (digital signal processing) equalization for high-end sound. It also features a rotating dock connector that allows you to mount your iPad, iPhone, or iPod touch in either portrait or landscape orientation.

We recommend testing speaker docks before purchase. In particular, you should listen for problems such as distortion at higher volumes and boomy bass.

Features

iPod docks typically feature an auxiliary connector so that you can connect a 3.5mm mini-plug cable from the audio output of MP3 players, PCs, and other devices. Other common features include built-in FM tuners for access to local radio stations and a built-in alarm clock for those who wish to wake up to music. Many iPod speaker docks also come with a remote control to let you manage volume, source selection, and skip or pause songs. Some models feature a USB input to connect your iPod to a PC and sync your iTunes library on your iPod.

Sony's ICF-CL75iP ($149.95; www.sonystyle.com) speaker dock also functions as a clock radio.

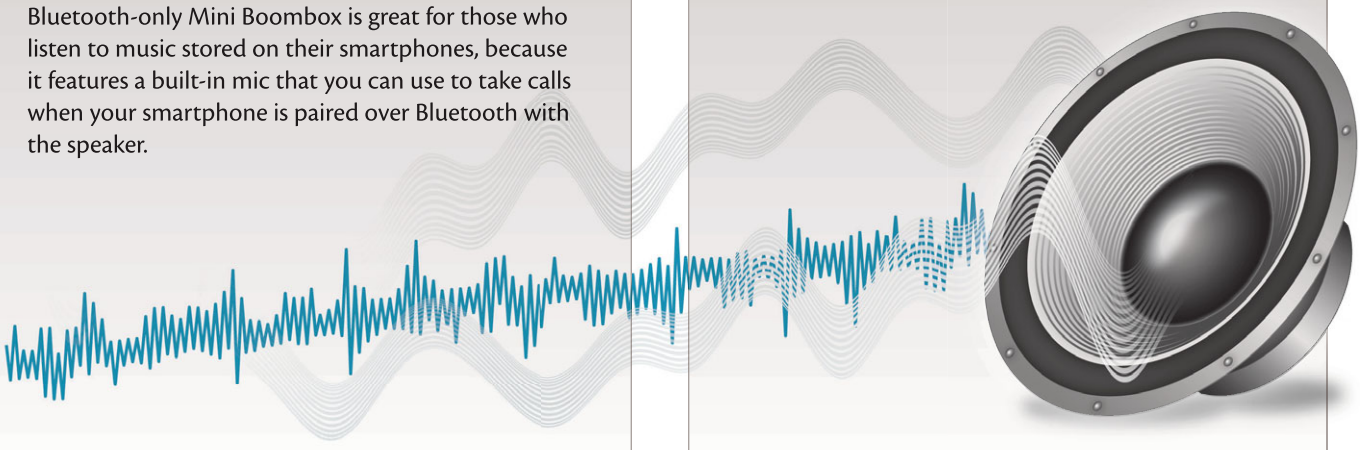
The Pure-Fi Express Plus from Logitech ($79.99; www.logitech.com) can operate on AC power or on six AA batteries.

Bluetooth iPod Speaker Docks

Typically, iPod speaker docks include Apple's 30-pin dock connector to power your iOS device while it plays music. Many current iPod speaker docks, such as Logitech's Mini Boombox ($99.99; www.logitech.com), also feature Bluetooth connections to let you stream audio from your Bluetooth devices to the speakers. The Bluetooth-only Mini Boombox is great for those who listen to music stored on their smartphones, because it features a built-in mic that you can use to take calls when your smartphone is paired over Bluetooth with the speaker.

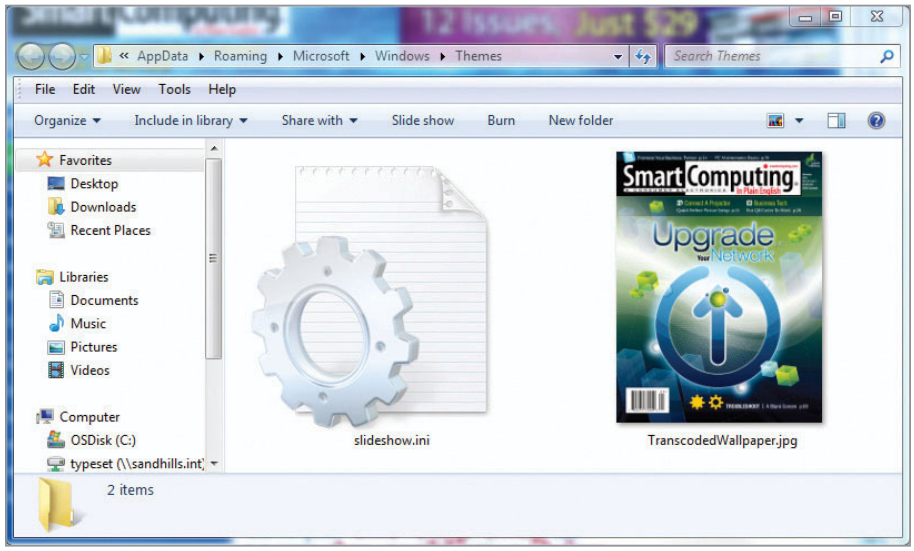
The AM/FM Option

If you want an iPod speaker dock for your home office, consider one with an AM/FM radio because you won't need to rely on filling up your iPod with work-appropriate music to fill out the work day. For example, you can switch over to hear local news station for updates about nearby events and weather.



Tips From The Help Desk

Common Tech Questions



A damaged TranscodedWallpaper.jpg file may be causing your Desktop background woes. It's an easy fix.

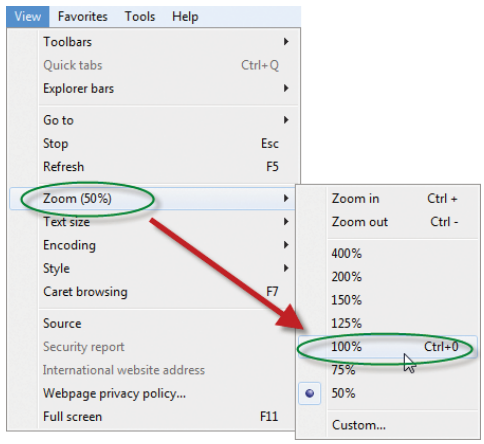
QUESTION:

When I try to choose a background image in the Control Panel, the checkboxes next to my pictures don't work.

A: There are several problems that can cause this symptom. (Related symptoms are a black background and this error message: "This image can't be set as wallpaper. An internal error occurred.") A simple setting may be to blame, or Windows may have a damaged TranscodedWallpaper.jpg file.

Start troubleshooting by checking your settings. Click the Start button and then click Control Panel. When the panel opens, click Ease Of Access. Click Ease Of Access Center. Now, scroll down to Make The Computer Easier To See and click it. Scroll down to Remove Background Images and uncheck its checkbox. Click OK.

If the checkbox was already clear, it's time to help Windows create a new TranscodedWallpaper.jpg file. Click the Start button and then enter this path into the Search field: %USERPROFILE%\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Windows\Themes\ and then press the ENTER key. The Themes folder will open, displaying two icons: Slideshow.ini and TranscodedWallpaper.jpg. Right-click TranscodedWallpaper.jpg and then click Rename. Select JPG and replace it with OLD. Windows won't recognize the file and will create a new one after you close Windows Explorer—but don't close it quite yet. First, open the Slideshow.ini file and delete any text that appears in it. Now, you're ready to close Windows Explorer. At this point, you should be able to select images for the Desktop background without trouble. If the problem persists, see additional tips at support.microsoft.com/kb/2504610. ❙

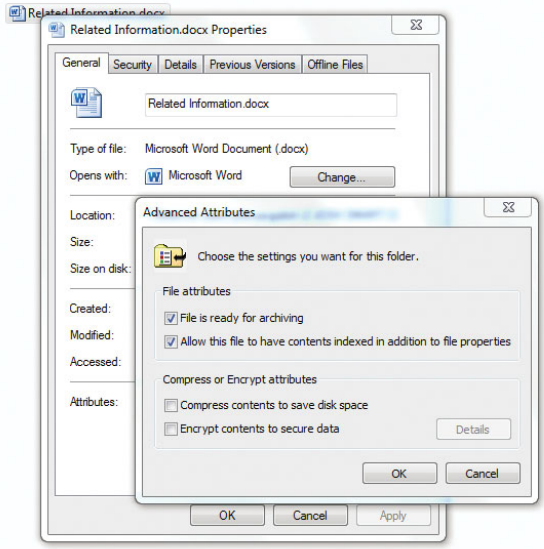


If you accidentally zoom out (or in) while surfing the Web, use your browser's Zoom settings to return the Web page to its original size.

QUESTION:

The text on the main page of my favorite website is suddenly so tiny that I can't read it. What happened?

A: Chances are, you were using your mouse scroll wheel to scroll through the page when you accidentally pushed the CONTROL key. You can return the page to the right size by pressing CONTROL again and scrolling the mouse wheel up. Another way to fix it is to set the Zoom setting to 100%. In Internet Explorer, click View, Zoom, 100%. In Chrome, click the wrench icon and then enter 100 next to Zoom.



Use the Properties menu to determine whether you have permission to open a troublesome file.

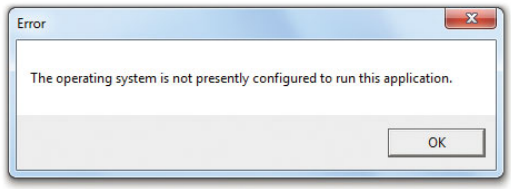
QUESTION:

I tried to open a document and received an error message that reads "Access denied." How can I open it?

A: If you're getting an "Access denied" message, someone has likely configured the file or Windows so that the file is protected. You'll probably need to talk to your administrator to get this resolved, but you can at least determine which issue is causing the message: a missing encryption certificate or a missing permission.

To check the encryption status of the file, right-click it, click Properties, and then click Advanced on the General tab. Take a look at the checkbox next to Encrypt Contents To Secure Data. If it's checked, your administrator (or the person who encrypted the file) will need to give you a certificate.

To check the file's permission status, right-click the file again, click Properties, and then click the Security tab. Select your name and then look for a check mark next to Read. If Read is clear, you'll need to see the administrator to get permission to open the file. For more info, visit tinyurl.com/7ceb6py.



If you're having trouble opening a Word document, you may need to change Word's compatibility settings.

QUESTION:

When I open Microsoft Word, a message asks me if I want to make changes. Nothing happens if I click no (and Word doesn't open). Should I click Yes?

A: If you click Yes, you'll likely see an error message, such as "Run-Time Error 429" or "The operating system is not presently configured to run this application." To solve this problem, click the Start button and then type **Word** in the Search field. When Word appears in the list, right-click it and click Properties. When the Properties window appears, uncheck the box next to Run This Program In Compatibility Mode For and then click OK.

BUYER'S GUIDE TOPICS

Each *Smart Computing* issue includes tips, reviews, and information about a variety of topics. However, each issue also has a featured group of articles about a selected topic. Below is a list of topics from the previous year. As a *Smart Computing* subscriber, you have access to all of our archived articles at www.smartcomputing.com.

March	2011	Backup For Home & Office
April	2011	Solve Software Errors
May	2011	Update Your Website
June	2011	Small & Home Office Security
July	2011	PC Maintenance
August	2011	Mobile Computing
September	2011	Technology Troubleshooting Guide
October	2011	The Small Office Server
November	2011	Affordable Office Tech
December	2011	Tuneup Utilities 2012
January	2012	Upgrade Your Network
February	2012	Laptops & Security Software

Maintenance Basics

Delete Internet Files

The data that accumulates in our Web browser's history, such as cookies and temp files, is one of the biggest contributors to the "junk" files that slow down our computers. Fortunately, there are easy ways to clean out the browsing history in today's Web browsers, and we'll show you how.

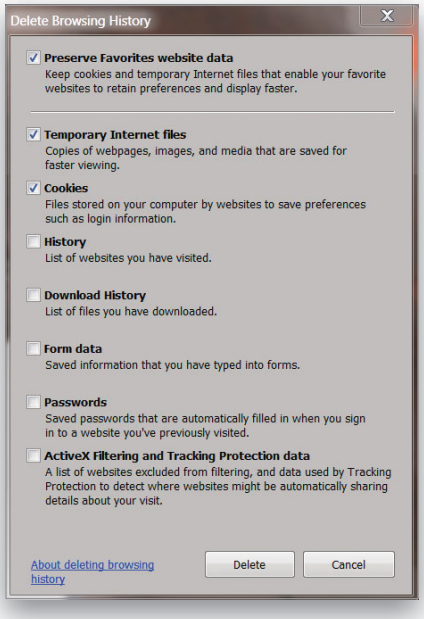
Internet Explorer

In Internet Explorer 9, select the Tools button (looks like a Gear and is located next to the Home and Favorites buttons) and click Internet Options. Click the Delete button under Browsing History and you'll see a list of items that IE9 automatically saves, such as Temporary Internet Files, History, and Passwords. If you're looking to save space, ensure that check marks are placed in the Temporary Internet Files, Cookies, and History checkboxes. Categories such as Form Data and Passwords save information that you've entered into previously visited websites, so they are designed to speed up your Web experience and may best be left unchecked.

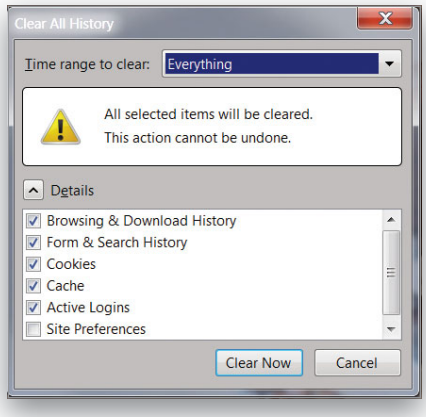
Similarly, IE9 also features a Preserve Favorites website data option that allows IE9 to retain the cookies and temporary files for those websites in your Favorites list to help those Web pages load faster. Consider checking this box to speed up your overall Web experience. Once you've made your checkbox selections, click the Delete button and IE9 will remove the files and information. Note that the Temporary Internet Files folder itself may hold a large amount of data, so it could take a few minutes to finish the task.

Firefox

To clear out Firefox 9, select the Tools menu (you may need to press the ALT button to temporarily bring up the Menu Bar) and click Clear Recent History. At the top of the resulting window, Firefox provides a Time Range To Clear drop-down box, where you can choose from

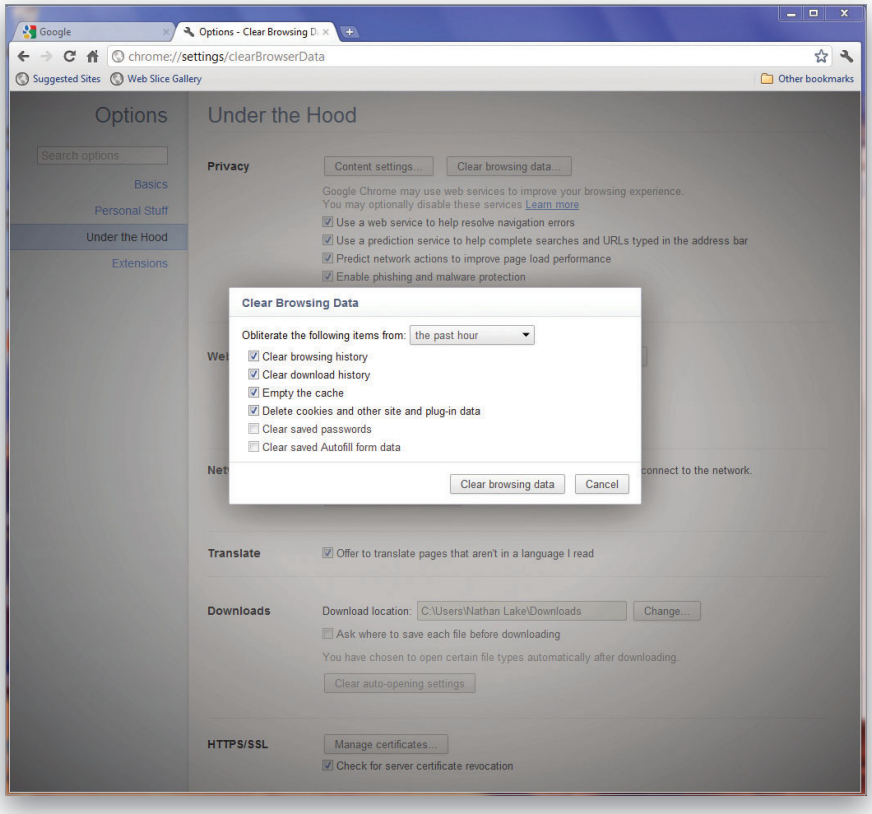


Open the Delete Browsing History window to clear out the temp files in Internet Explorer 9.



In Firefox 9, you'll want to bring up the Clear All History window.

Everything, Last Hour, Last Two Hours, Last Four Hours, and Today. Under Details, you'll find checkboxes for the various types of data that Firefox saves. The key space hog categories in Firefox are the Cookies and Cache items, so you'll want to ensure they are checked. Items such as Active Logins and Site Preferences help Firefox to expedite the loading of your most often visited websites, so you may want to remove the checkboxes from those options. To delete the data, click the Clear Now button.



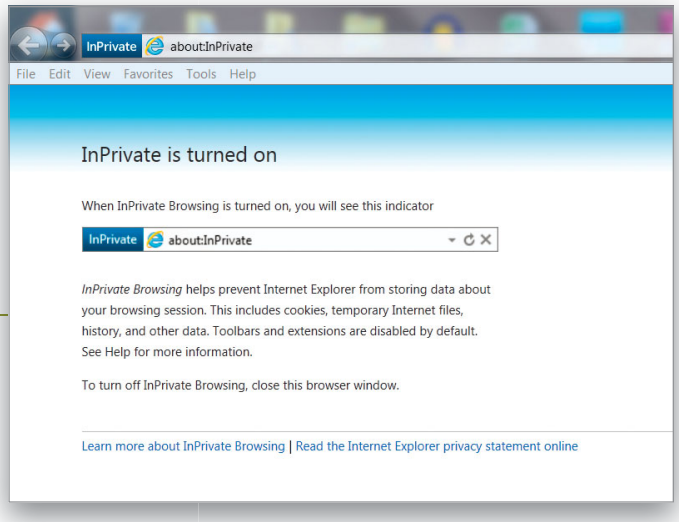
With Google Chrome, you'll want to enter the Under The Hood section and choose Clear Browsing Data.

Google Chrome

With Google Chrome 16, you clear data by clicking the Wrench icon, which is located next to the Address bar on the browser toolbar. Click Tools and select Clear Browsing Data. The pop-up window offers you an Obliterate The Following Items From drop-down menu where you can delete data from the past hour, day, week, month, or all Chrome files. By default, Chrome places checkboxes in the Clear Browsing History, Clear Download History, Empty The Cache, and Delete Cookies And Other Site And Plug-in Data, which are wise choices for those who want to free up storage. The Clear Saved Passwords and Clear Saved Autofill Form Data are unchecked, and you may want to keep the data, because it helps to quicken the load times of your most commonly accessed websites. Click the Clear Browsing Data button to remove the files you selected. ❙

Private Browsing

Most Web browsers also offer a mode where you can surf the Web without the browser saving any records of your activity. For example, Internet Explorer's InPrivate Browsing will block IE9 from saving any of the browsing history, temporary Internet files, form data, and authentications when InPrivate Browsing is enabled. To do so in IE9, hold down CTRL-SHIFT-P, which starts a new private browsing session. When you close that browser window, the private session will end.



InPrivate Browsing lets you browse without Internet Explorer storing data about where you've been.

PestControl

REMOVE STUBBORN BUGS

If a virus slips past your computer's defenses, it's time to roll up your sleeves and go after the bug yourself. Each month, we tell you how to remove some of the most disruptive malware on the Internet.

DNSCHANGER

DESCRIPTION: DNSChanger is a Trojan that will change your computer and router's DNS (Domain Name Server) settings and reroute your Web browser to websites with other viruses and illegal content. The FBI is now in control of the rogue servers that caused DNSChanger, but it cannot undo any changes that were made. DNSChanger may have affected both the individual Windows computers on your network, as well as the server settings in your local router to redirect your PCs to infected websites. Security software developer G Data informs us that on March 8, the FBI will shut down the rogue DNS servers, which may cause PCs and routers affected by the malware to have problems connecting to the Internet.

How To Remove DNSChanger

G Data indicates that you should start by performing a complete antivirus scan of your entire PC to remove any lingering malware that could install DNSChanger. Next, visit http://dns-ok.de and look at the color of the bar near the top of the Web page. If there's a green bar, the DNS settings on your router and PC have not been manipulated. If you see a red warning sign (see the warning message displayed on this page), you will need to manually fix the system.

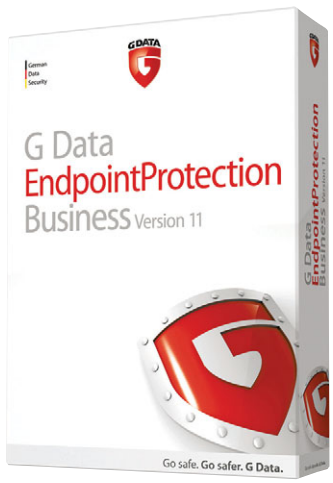
For those with several computers experiencing DNSChanger issues, you'll need to access the router's Web interface, and you'll find the Web address in the router's users manual. First, you'll want to change your router's password, especially if you're using the factory settings. Next, you'll want to ensure that the router is set to obtain an IP (Internet Protocol) address automatically, and any DNS server addresses (that you haven't set up previously) have been deleted.

If you have an infected computer, open the Network And Sharing Center in Windows 7 and select your active connection, which is located under the View Your Active Networks section. Select Properties, choose Internet Protocol Version 4, and ensure that it's set to Obtain DNS Server Address Automatically. Next, you'll want to open Command Prompt (click Start, type **Command Prompt** into the search field, and click Command Prompt), type **ipconfig /flushdns**, and press ENTER. Restart your browser and visit http://dns-ok.de. You'll also want to check the proxy settings of your Web browser to ensure that DNSChanger hasn't created a security loophole. In Internet Explorer 9, click Tools, select Internet Options, choose the Connections tab, and click LAN Settings. G Data indicates that by default, none of the checkboxes should be selected.

Why is this important? The DNS is a service that is not located on your computer. It serves as the telephone book for the Internet. Your computer goes to DNS with a name (or URL), such as www.thisname.com, and the DNS turns it into an Internet address, such as 172.16.254.1. You see, all of the Web pages live at numbers, but we find them using their names. The DNS does all the rest. An infected or misled DNS might take in a perfectly innocent name and then lead your browser to a criminal Web page that only looks like the Web page you intended. Imagine if this was your bank. Imagine if this was the police. It's a very big deal. ❙

ACHTUNG: Ihre DNS Konfiguration ist manipuliert

If you see this red warning sign when visiting http://dns-ok.de, you may be a victim of DNSChanger.



G Data's EndPoint Protection (contact G Data for pricing; www.gdatasoftwareNA.com) can help secure your local network's laptops, desktops, and servers.

UPDATES & DRIVERS

When it comes to protecting your PC, installing the latest software updates is one of the most important steps you can take. Software updates fix bugs, plug security holes, and sometimes even add new features. Drivers can also solve problems and improve performance, but many users prefer to install new drivers only when a device isn't working properly. Here are the updates and drivers you should know about this month.

NVIDIA GeForce290.53 BETA Driver

This driver supports systems with GeForce 6, 7, 8, 9, 100, 200, 300, 400, and 500 series desktop graphics cards, as well as those with ION graphics processors. NVIDIA has also fixed some bugs that occur when the PC is set to use the default display resolution with the 290.36 driver. Other improvements include additional support for games, as well as additional game profiles for NVIDA's SLI and 3D Vision technology. To install the download, visit www.geforce.com/drivers/beta and select your video card and Windows edition from the drop-down menus.

Adobe Camera Raw 6.6

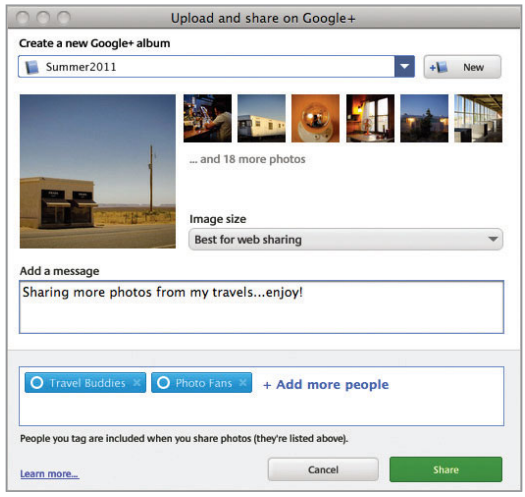
Owners of Adobe Creative Suite 5 and Photoshop CS5 should check out Adobe's Camera Raw 6.6 update because it adds support for many of today's newest cameras. Just some of the newly supported models include the Canon PowerShot S100, Nikon 1 J1 and V1, and Samsung NX5 and NX200. Adobe recommends that you download the update by selecting Updates from the Help menu in your Adobe application.

iTunes 10.5.3 lets you sync iBooks with your iPad.

iTunes 10.5.3

This update for iTunes gives you the ability to sync interactive iBooks with your iPad. iBooks are multi-touch textbooks that are available from the iBookstore, which can be found on your iBooks 2 app for iPad. The digital textbooks can provide students with immediate feedback through questionnaires at the end of chapters. Apple also includes a variety of security patches with the 10.5.3 update. To download the update, open iTunes, select Help, and click Check For Updates.

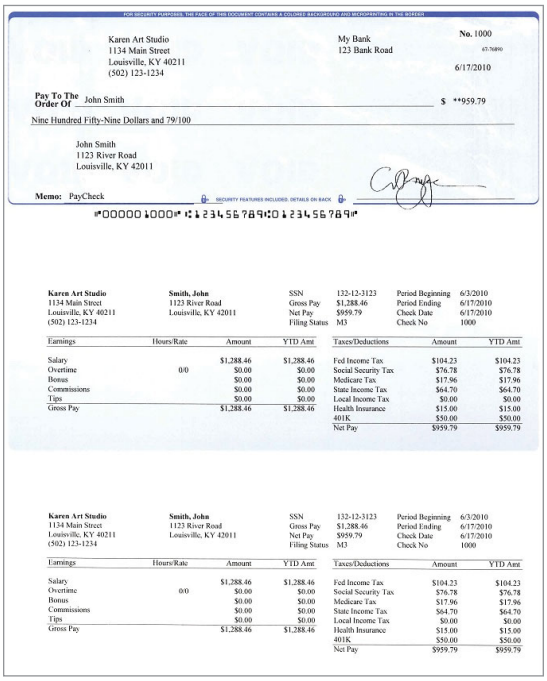
UPDATES & DRIVERS



The newest release of Picasa lets you upload photos and tag your Google+ friends.

Picasa 3.9

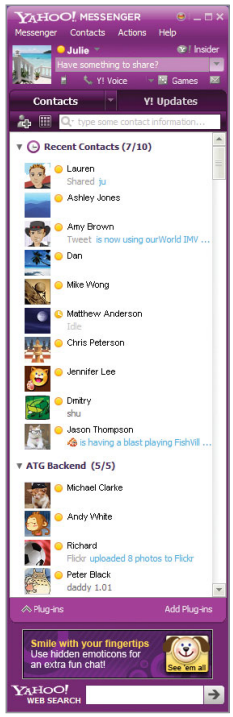
In version 3.9 of Picasa, Google has integrated the ability to upload images—at their original size—to your Google+ account, so you can share the photos with your circles. Another helpful upgrade is the ability to tag your Google+ friends in your photos, and when you do so, Google+ will notify those friends that they have been tagged in a photo. Picasa 3.9 also features a wide variety of new photo-editing effects, just some of which include Infrared, Cinemascope, Sixties, Focal Zoom, and Comic Book. To download the update, start Picasa, Help, and click Check For Updates.



With ezPaycheck 2012, you'll have support for the latest tax tables for all 50 states.

ezPaycheck 2012

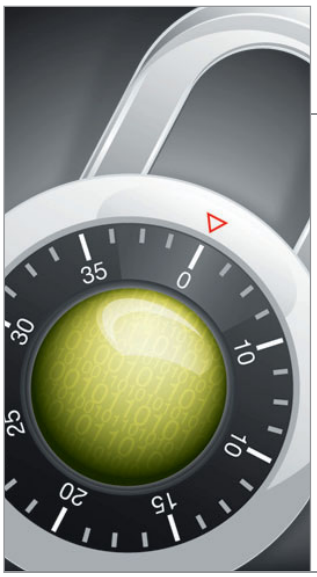
Halfpricesoft.com released ezPaycheck 2012 with updates that reflect the latest tax table changes for all 50 states, Washington, D.C., and federal taxes. For example, many states changed the withholding allowance for employees in 2012, and ezPaycheck 2012 can help you automatically calculate both pre-tax and post-tax deductions, including for tips, commissions, Social Security, Medicare, and unemployment. To update from the 2011 to 2012 version, you can visit www.halfpricesoft.com/index.asp and purchase the 2012 ezPayCheck Update Package for $59 (per year, per installation).



Yahoo! Messenger 11.5 lets you have a different tab for each conversation.

Yahoo! Messenger 11.5

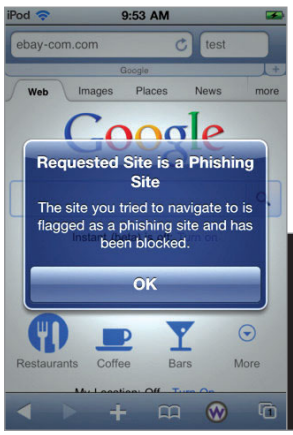
The 11.5 update for Yahoo! Messenger delivers a number of features based on the feedback and suggestions from users. For example, having a different tab for each conversation was a highly requested feature that Yahoo! added to make it easy for you to chat with multiple people at once. Yahoo! Messenger 11.5 also simplifies contact management with a Recent Contacts list that populates with the people you chat with the most. There are also new social games and the ability to share a snapshot of your computer screen. You can download the latest Yahoo! Messenger from messenger.yahoo.com.



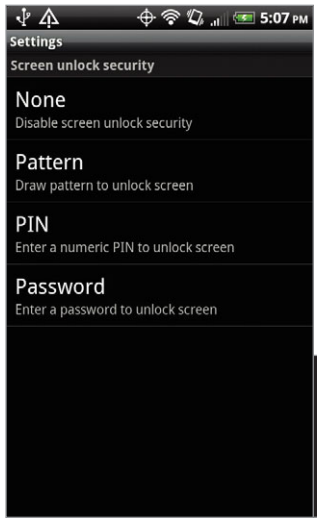
SECURITY

How To Protect Your Mobile Devices

We take our smartphones and tablets pretty much everywhere we go, which exposes them to the possibility of theft and loss. And because our mobile devices generally store a wide variety of personal data, including emails and access to mobile bank accounts, it's important to invest in a mobile security app that can remotely lock and wipe a lost device. Most mobile security apps also provide antivirus protection, which can be important because smartphones and tablets are essentially tiny computers. Here, we'll cover how mobile security software can protect your smartphones and tablets.



Webroot's SecureWeb can block malicious websites from reaching your iPhone, iPad, or iPod touch.



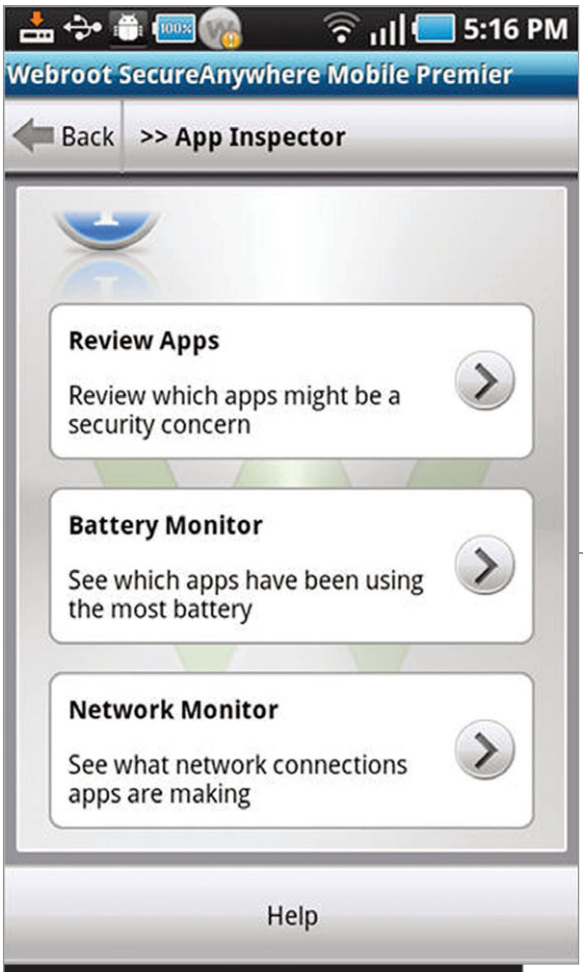
With an Android-based device, you can lock it behind a pattern, a numeric PIN, or a password.

Virus & Spyware Protection

Cybercriminals are now targeting smartphones and tablets with their malicious software, and there are a variety of ways they can reach your mobile device. One of the most common infiltration methods is through the apps you download. Webroot's SecureAnywhere Mobile Premier scans the apps you download for threats such as viruses, spyware, and Trojans, and it will block any malicious software from installing on your Android device. Secure Web browsing is another common feature to help prevent viruses from infecting your phone or tablet from infected websites. For example, Webroot's SecureWeb (free) for iOS utilizes Webroot's URL filtering to visually indicate if the site is safe to enter, while at the same time blocking any threats from a compromised website.

Extras

Mobile security developers typically provide a few extras that help to further protect your device. For example, some mobile security suites offer the ability to block text message spam, which may include a link to a malicious URL. You may even be able to create a list of approved or blocked contacts to control who can reach your mobile devices. One of the most effective security extras is a SIM (subscriber identity module) card locking feature in which your mobile phone will go into lockdown mode when the SIM card is removed. Automatic SIM card lock is a great feature because the first thing a phone thief typically does is remove the SIM cards so that authorities won't be able to trace the missing phone. Another helpful feature is built-in password protection to encrypt key files and folders on your phone behind a password.



SecureAnywhere Mobile Premier from Webroot features an App Inspector to scan downloaded apps for viruses before they are installed on your phone.

Anti-Theft Defense

Most mobile security products give you the freedom to delete your personal information off the phone from a PC by accessing a secure Web address provided by the mobile security developer. For example, Webroot's SecureAnywhere Mobile Premier ($19.99; www.webroot.com) includes access to a Mobile Security Portal where you can log in with your secret username and password to remotely lock, wipe, and locate an Android-based device. Some mobile security apps let you remotely disable, clean personal files, and find your mobile phone by sending a text message with a keyword. Typically, the app will turn on your mobile device's GPS to help you locate it on a map. Some tools, such as Webroot's SecureAnywhere Mobile Premier, can force the phone to sound a loud alert, which can help you locate it if the device is nearby.

Automatic SIM card lock is a great feature because the first thing a phone thief typically does is remove the SIM cards so that authorities won't be able to trace the missing phone.

Built-In Password Protection

Both Android and iOS mobile operating systems give you the ability to set up a password to unlock your phone. (Note that these steps may be slightly different, depending on your model of phone).

To set up a password on an Android device (must run Android 2.2 or later), tap the Menu button, select Settings, choose Security, and tap Screen Lock. At the Screen Lock window, you'll be able to choose between pattern (must connect dots in order), PIN (enter number), or password to unlock the phone. With iOS, tap Settings, choose General, and select Passcode Lock. In the Passcode Lock window, you can select Require Passcode and set a four-digit code that you'll need to enter when unlocking your iPhone or iPad.

With iOS devices, you can set a four-digit PIN.

Smart Computing DICTIONARY

Silicon Valley has long been notorious for churning out jargon along with its electronics, and it isn't showing any signs of slowing. With the rise of each new trend, more tech terms find their way into our day-to-day vocabulary. Right now, social media is the chief jargon offender. Tomorrow—who knows? One thing is for certain: *Smart Computing*'s dictionary has plain-English definitions that will keep you up to speed.

WorkSnug smartphone app (free; worksnug.com)

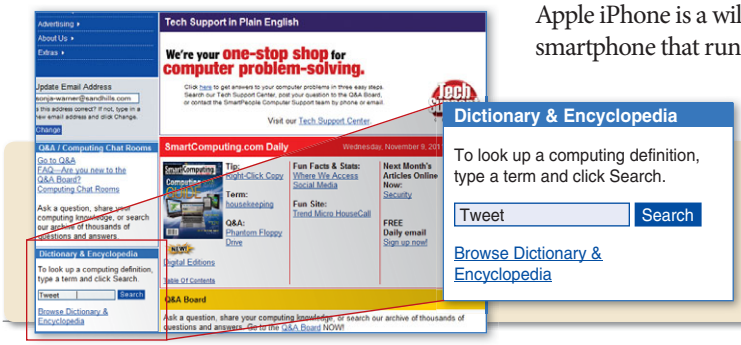
augmented reality • Yet another example of the real world catching up with science fiction, augmented reality describes technology that provides up-to-date information about the world around you. An augmented reality app on your smartphone, for example, may display information about a monument when you aim the phone's camera at the monument.

cloud • The definitions for "cloud" and "cloud computing" are still evolving and subject to debate, but you'll find that many people are referring to online services when they say something is "in the cloud." Such services include online photo-editing services, Web-based email services, online storage services, and more. Businesses often think of cloud computing in terms of scalability: Internet-based services that can scale to meet the changing usage needs of a growing business. SaaS (Software as a Service), for example, is software that is hosted online (instead of being installed on your computers). It can be scaled for use by your growing company.

fan grille • Wherever you find a fan on your computer case, you are also likely to find a fan grille (sometimes referred to as a fan grill). Not to be mistaken for a fan filter (which blocks dust from being sucked into your system), a fan grille prevents curious children and pets from touching the rotating fan blade. Business PCs typically have nondescript grilles, while gaming PCs often have grilles in eye-catching shapes.

iPhone • Launched in 2007, the Apple iPhone is a wildly popular smartphone that runs Apple's iOS operating system. Features that have helped shape its success include the touch screen, the sleek design, its processing power, its music playing capabilities, and its App Store. The store is arguably one of the most important features of the phone: It lets users find and download free and paid mini-applications that add functionality to the iPhone by letting users play games, edit photos, shop, track information, and more. iPhones are in wide use by consumers and businesses.

ODF (Open Document Format) • For as long as we've had office software, sharing digital document files (among users who have different types of office software) has been problematic. If a colleague creates a document with one brand of office software, you might find that important formatting is lost when you open it in your (different) office software. In fact, it might not open at all. To improve widespread (and long-term support) for digital documents, the Open Document Format Alliance created an open-source document standard. The format is supported by many popular office suites, including modern versions of Corel WordPerfect Office, Google Docs, OpenOffice.org, and Microsoft Office. To save a document as an ODF document, click Save As and look for the ODT (text), ODS (spreadsheet), or related extension.



Can't find the term you're looking for in this month's list? Find thousands more definitions in *Smart Computing's* dictionary at www.smartcomputing.com. To see a term appear in these pages, email editor@smartcomputing.com.

Certified Piedmontese Beef

Now you can have your beef and eat it too... Guilt-free.

Unlike conventional beef, Certified Piedmontese doesn't need fat to be tender. Instead, it's naturally lean, naturally tender—so you get all the taste and tenderness you love, but less of the fat you don't need.

Filet Mignon

The leanest and most tender cut of beef, the filet is often called "the king of steaks," and with good reason.

Four 8-oz: $55.95

New York Strip

A perfect balance of marbling and tenderness makes this steak widely appealing to a variety of tastes.

Four 8-oz: $39.95

Sirloin Filet

You won't believe it's not tenderloin: Becauseof the extra lean and tender characteristics of Piedmontese beef, this cut closely resembles tenderloin, but at a fraction of the price.

Four 8-oz: $31.95

Cowboy Cut Ribeye

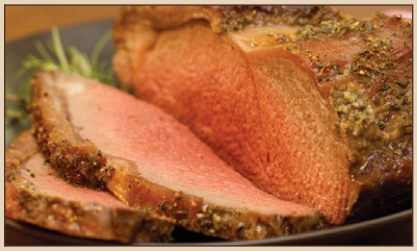
Like the boneless ribeye, a flavorful, tender steak, but with the taste accentuated by the added flavor of the bone-in.

Two 20-oz: $47.95

Boneless Ribeye

The natural leanness of Certified Piedmontese makes this a flavorful steak with a melt-in-your-mouth tenderness, but without the guilt of a traditional ribeye.

Four 10-oz: $49.95



Boneless Strip Loin Roast

Like the New York strip steaks that come from this roast, this cut balances marbling and tenderness, making it a guaranteed crowd-pleaser. Can also be cut into steaks of varying sizes, depending on family or guest preferences.

One 80-oz: $98.95

Standing Rib Roast

The prime rib is known for its buttery flavor and tenderness, and a Certified Piedmontese standing rib roast delivers on both counts.

One 80-oz: $93.95

Tenderloin Roast

Lean and tender, this roast is easy to prepare and will easily take on your favorite flavors and seasonings.

Two 32-oz: $111.95

Gift Box Collections

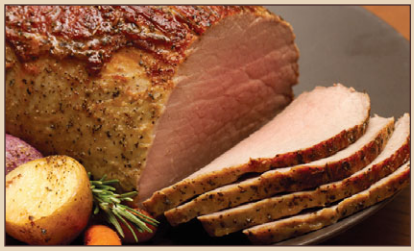
Elite $80.95
2 10-oz Sirloin Filet
2 16-oz Bavette Steak
2 16-oz Flank Steak
1 16-oz 85% Ground Beef

Premium 125.95
3 20-oz Cowboy Cut Ribeye
4 8-oz Filet Mignon

Supreme $196.95
1 32-oz Tenderloin Roast
4 12-oz New York Strip
4 10-oz Boneless Ribeye
1 32-oz Sirloin Roast

Prestige $203.95
4 10-oz Boneless Ribeye
4 12-oz New York Strip
4 10-oz Sirloin Filet
4 8-oz Filet Mignon

Brisket Flat
Great for summer barbecue or the smoker, a Certified Piedmontese brisket is also perfect for the oven or slow cooker.
One 48-oz: $37.95



Eye of Round Roast
Flavorful and normally cut thin, an eye of round roast is a good value and is excellent braised or prepared in the slow cooker
One 64-oz: $49.95

Sirloin Roast
Lean and tender, the sirloin roast, like the tenderloin, takes on flavors extremely well and can feed a large group at a reasonable cost.
One 32-oz: $31.95

Bavette Steak
Similar to a flank steak, the lesser-known bavette is a great value, and a Piedmontese bavette is so tender that it's suitable for a variety of preparations.
Two 16-oz: $26.95

Beef Kabobs
Lean and juicy, these are guaranteed to be the most tender and tastiest kabobs you've ever eaten.
Three 16-oz: $21.95

Tenderloin Tips
Think of these as bite-sized filet mignons: Juicy, flavorful, and buttery tender. Goes well with anything, but especially with pasta.
Three 16-oz: $51.95

Flank Steak
The long and flat flank steak is great for ethnic dishes; unlike some conventional flank steaks, a Piedmontese flank steak is tender enough to prepare using a variety of cooking methods.
Three 16-oz: $44.95

Stew Meat
Certified Piedmontese stew meat is allnatural and makes for a rich and hearty addition to any stew or soup. The perfect meal for warming up those cold winter nights.
Three 16-oz: $21.95

85% Lean Ground
The wonderful taste and succulent texture of all-natural Piedmontese ground beef, ground to 85% lean to create a consistently rich, meaty flavor. Perfect for grilling or broiling.
Three 16-oz: $18.95

For more details and ordering information, go to www.piedmontese.com.

Certified Piedmontese Beef

Delicious Nutrition, Now Available Online

Certified Piedmontese beef tastes great: lean and tender, juicy and delicious. But there's more to it than just tasting good. Certified Piedmontese is also low in fat, low in cholesterol, and low in calories. At the same time, it's protein-rich and high in omega fatty acids—the kind that your body needs in order to stay strong and healthy. With Certified Piedmontese, you get all the taste and tenderness without all the fat.

Nutritional Comparison

Serving Size 3.5 Ounces	Certified Piedmontese New York Strip	Traditional NY Strip (all grades)	Traditional NY Strip USDA Choice	Traditional NY Strip USDA Prime	Certified Piedmontese Eye of Round	Traditional Eye of Round	Pork (composite)	Chicken (skinless)	Turkey
Calories	160	228	232	281	106	166	211	119	120
Total Fat (g)	9.54	15.49	15.95	22.17	2.75	8.24	14.79	3.08	2.86
Saturated Fat (g)	4.22	6.251	6.435	9.08	1.11	3.245	4.9	0.79	0.95
Cholesterol (mg)	38.5	81	82	67	42	68	69	70	65
Protein (g)	18.67	20.61	20.63	19	19.81	21.49	18.22	21.39	21.77
Shear Force (kg)	2.84	5.2	Pending	Pending	3.2	4.73	N/A	N/A	N/A

Certified Piedmontese beef listed above represents current data for raw materials – Midwest Analytical Laboratory & University of Nebraska, Lincoln. Comparison Source: USDA Nutritional Database - Ranking of Beef Muscle for Tenderness Study, University of Nebraska – Warner-Bratzler Shear Force Values.

Now buy online at www.piedmontese.com.